DEVIL'S DOOM

No.1

50¢*

SATAN THE DEMON

... page 2

Satan, the Demon

WEALTH, FAME, FORTUNE, PLEASURE... ALL WERE GUY SOMMERS' FOR THE SPACE OF TWENTY YEARS! LIKE DR. FAUSTUS, HE HAD SOLD HIS SOUL FOR GOLD! BUT UNLIKE THE MAD DOCTOR, GUY SOMMERS WAS SURE HE WOULD NEVER HAVE TO PAY...

SATAN, THE DEMON

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*RECOMMENDED PRICE

LATER, AS GUY FACES HIS WIFE IN THEIR PALATIAL HOME...
AND NOW I DON'T HAVE A CENT LEFT IN THE WORLD! I HAVE ONLY... YOU!
SO YOU'RE BROKE, EH? THEN YOU DON'T HAVE ME, EITHER, GUY!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU MIGHT AS WELL KNOW... I MARRIED YOU FOR YOUR MONEY! NOW YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY! I'M LEAVING YOU! I'M GOING UP TO PACK! SO LONG, SUCKER!
THE WORLD HAS COLLAPSED AROUND ME! NO MONEY... MY FRIENDS WON'T HELP... AND NOW MY WIFE TURNS OUT TO BE A GOLD-DIGGER! IF I HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO GO AWAY AND START ALL OVER AGAIN... I'D SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL!
AND THEN...
WHAT THE DEVIL!?!
WH-WHO ARE YOU?
LET'S NOT BANDY MY NAME ABOUT, SHALL WE? YOU'LL SELL YOUR SOUL FOR MONEY, EH? VERY WELL— JUST SIGN THIS... AND YOU'LL BE RICH!
THIS MUST BE A DREAM! I DON'T BELIEVE IN... IN... YOU... BUT IN CASE IT'S TRUE... WHAT ARE YOUR TERMS?
VERY SIMPLE... AND IT IS TRUE! JUST SIGN THIS AGREEMENT, AND YOU'LL BECOME THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH... FOR TWENTY YEARS! AFTER THAT TIME, YOUR SOUL BECOMES MINE!
I WANT AN EXTRA CHANCE... I'LL LOSE MY SOUL TO YOU ONLY IF I DIE BY DROWNING!
THERE! I'VE SIGNED! DROWNING, EH? YOU'VE LOST ALREADY, FOR I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE TO STAY AWAY FROM WATER, MR....
JUST CALL ME BUBB... BEEL Z. BUBB! YOU HAVE 20 YEARS! AFTER THAT, WE'LL SEE... AH, THERE'S YOUR FIRST DELIVERY, NOW!

GUY FINDS THE FIRST OF THE DEVIL'S DELIVERIES... IN THE FORM OF A LIGHTNING BOLT WHICH KILLS HIS WIFE! AND LATER ...
LET ME EXPRESS MY SYMPATHIES, MR. SOMMERS. YOUR WIFE HAD INSURED EACH OF YOU FOR $100,000 -- AND HERE'S YOUR CHECK!
$100,000! OH, NO! I DIDN'T WANT THE MONEY THIS WAY!

RICHER BY A FORTUNE, BUT STRICKEN WITH REMORSE, GUY WALKS DOWN HIS GARDEN, UNTIL, HIS FURY GETTING THE BETTER OF HIM ...
I DIDN'T WANT THE MONEY THIS WAY! THAT INFERNAL MAN! I WISH I COULD RIP HIM APART AS EASILY AS I CAN UPROOT THIS BUSH!

AND THEN...
GREAT SCOTT! TH-THE ROOTS OF THE BUSH CAME OUT ... IT'S GOLD! I'VE BEEN LIVING OVER A GOLD MINE!

BUT GUY'S LUCK IS NOT YET EXPENDED, FOR...
BUT I THOUGHT THAT, AS MY STOCK BROKER, YOU HAD TO SELL ME OUT!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! JUST AS I STARTED TO SEND IN THE SELLING ORDER, THE STOCK JUMPED FIFTY POINTS! YOU'VE MADE $200,000!

AND THE NEXT MORNING, IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER PHONE CALL, GUY FINDS...
I CAME RIGHT AWAY, MR. GUSETT! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
AN UNCLE OF YOURS DIED, LEAVING YOU HIS WHOLE ESTATE! YOUR LEGACY IS OVER $1,000,000!

THE GOLD REMOVED, GUY PREPARES TO LEAVE...
I WANT TO SELL MY HOME... SO I'M HAVING A WELL DUG FOR A FRESH WATER SUPPLY! AS YOU CAN SEE, THE HOUSE HAS BEEN REPAIRED. IT'S A STEAL AT $50,000!
HMMM. I'LL HAVE TO THINK IT OVER... SAY!... WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE WELL?

GOOD GRIEF! YOU WON'T WANT TO SELL NOW, SOMMERS! D'YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS? YOU'VE STRUCK — OIL!

AND SO THE STORY GOES! AS THE YEARS PASS, EVERYTHING GUY SOMMERS TOUCHES TURNS TO GOLD!

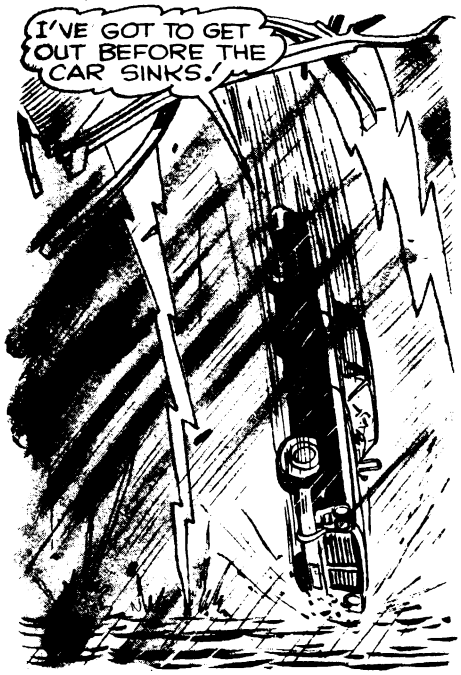
UNTIL, EXACTLY 20 YEARS LATER...

AND THEN THE MAN APPEARS TO CLAIM HIS DUE...

BUT GUY HAS A SUDDEN INSPIRATION... ONE LAST CHANCE...

HORRIFIED BY HIS NARROW ESCAPE, GUY FLEES FOR SAFETY TO...
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE I'LL BE SAFE... DEATH VALLEY! THERE'S NO WATER! AND IT NEVER RAINS THERE! LONG AGO, I BOUGHT A HOME OUT THERE... IN A FEW HOURS, I'LL BE FREE OF THE DEVIL FOREVER!

THEN ALMOST WITHIN SIGHT OF SAFETY, DISASTER STRIKES AGAIN...
THIS IS THE LAST BODY OF WATER BEFORE DEATH VALLEY! ONCE OVER THIS RIVER AND I'LL BE SAFE... WHAT WAS THAT?


I'VE GOT TO GET OUT BEFORE THE CAR SINKS!

BUT LUCK IS WITH GUY, FOR AS HE POPS TO THE SURFACE...
HANG ON... THERE! WE'VE GOT YOU!
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE SAVED ME FROM!

AND AT LAST, DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS ENEMY, GUY WINS THROUGH TO HIS ULTIMATE REFUGE...
DEATH VALLEY... AND MY HOME AT LAST! I'M SAFE!
THERE'S NO WATER FOR ME TO DROWN IN HERE!

THE PEACEFUL DAYS PASS CALMLY AND SAFELY... AT LAST, GUY IS HAPPY AND SECURE...
WHAT A PLACE! I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER IN MY LIFE! I'VE OUTWITTED YOU! DO YOUR WORST, BEEL Z. BUBB! I'VE GOT YOU LICKED!

BUT THE WORDS NO SOONER ARE OUT OF GUY'S MOUTH WHEN...
Y-YOU!
CERTAINLY! YOU DEFIED ME, DIDN'T YOU? YOU CROOK! YOU CHEAT... YOU, YOU... MORTAL!

YOU'VE GONE BACK ON OUR BARGAIN! YOUR SOUL BELONGS TO ME!
ONLY IF I DROWN! AND I CAN'T DROWN... IN DEATH VALLEY! YOU'VE LOST, BEEL Z. BUBB!
EVEN BEEL Z. BUBB HAS THE DEVIL OF A TEMPER, IT SEEMS...
IF I CAN'T GET YOUR SOUL, THEN I'LL LEAVE MY MARK ON YOU FOR LIFE!
ARRHH! LET... GO... OF MY... M-MY THROAT!
EVEN YOUR STRENGTH IS WEAKER THAN I THOUGHT! WHAT HAVE MEN BEEN AFRAID OF YOU FOR? YOU'RE A FAKER! A... A WEAKLING!
HAHAHA, WAIT AND SEE!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT IN DEATH VALLEY! IT CAN'T RAIN HERE!
HA, HA, HA! IT CAN! IF YOU HAD KNOWN YOUR INDIAN LEGENDS, YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT DEATH VALLEY IS DRY ONLY AS LONG AS THE DEVIL WEARS HIS CLOAK! THE INDIANS CALL IT... "THE CLOAK OF STORM!" YES, I AM THE DEVIL!

DRIVEN BEYOND HIS ENDURANCE, GUY'S NERVE SNAPS! WITH A SCREAM, HE RUNS FROM HIS TORMENTOR, UP A DRY ARROYO, ONLY TO FIND...
HA, HA, HA!
AIYEEE! NO! NO! IT'S A TRICK! IT CAN'T RAIN IN DEATH VALLEY! NO! NO!

THE ARROYO, NO LONGER DRY, AS TORRENTIAL RAINS RACE DOWN ON HIM...
EE'LEEEE!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! AND NOW IT'S BACK TO MY DOMINION AGAIN WITH A NEW RECRUIT! HA, HA, HA! THE MORAL IS... IF YOU SELL YOUR SOUL FOR MONEY-- THERE'S THE DEVIL TO PAY! HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
the END

HAUNTED

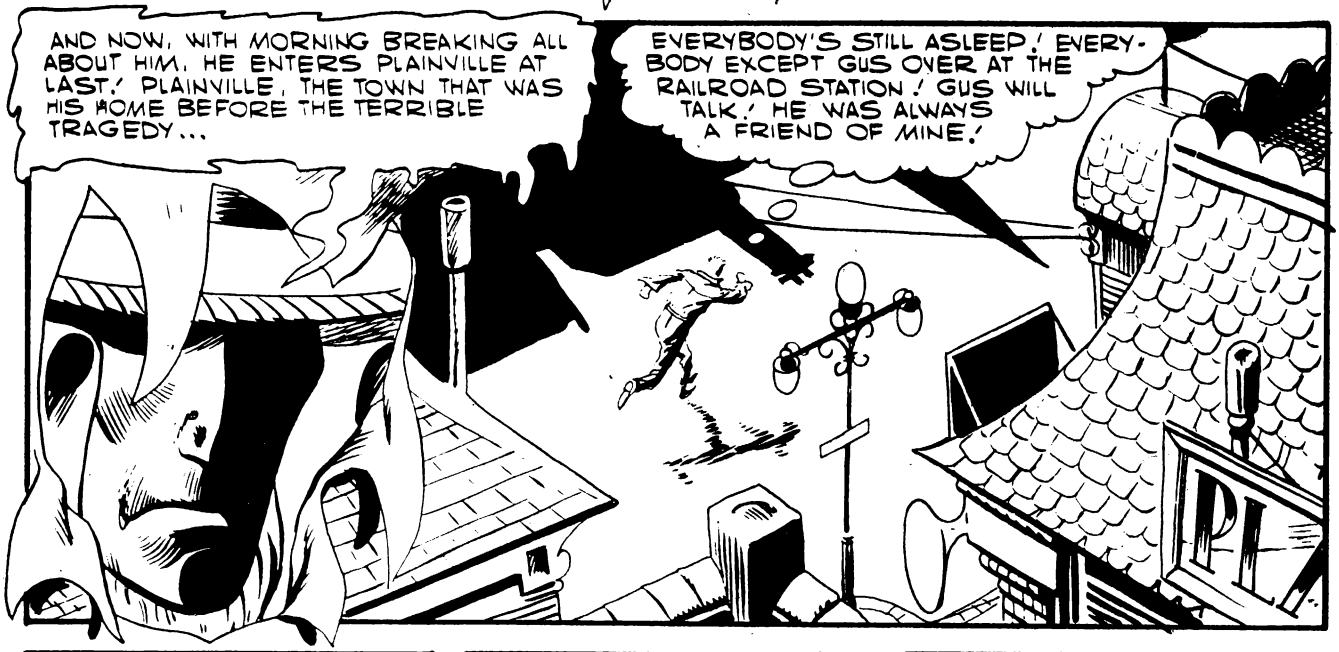
YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU MISTOOK ME FOR A FURTIVE BLOB OF DARKNESS, STRANGELY DARKER THAN THE OTHER SHADOWS, AND FOR A SPLIT-SECOND YOU FOUND YOURSELF STARING PUZZLEDLY, BUT THEN THE FORM QUICKLY FADED... AND YOU FORGOT! YOU HAVE HEARD ME, TOO! BUT ONLY DIMLY! IN THE GUISE OF SOBBING WIND OR A FAINT FARAWAY SHRIEK...
Ditko-
S22b1

WELL, NOW YOU SHALL HEAR DR. HAUNT CLEARLY AS I TELL MY BLOOD-CHILLING TALES! AND MY FIRST TALE IS OF A MAN HAUNTED BY AN UNQUENCHABLE FIRE WITHIN HIM! I CALL IT...
'HE SHALL HAVE VENGEANCE'
BEHOLD HIM STRIDING THROUGH THE NIGHT...
HIS MOUTH A THIN, TWISTING LINE THAT SPELLS A TERRIBLE RAGE... HIS HANDS SWINGING CHOPPILY, CLENCHED INTO JAGGED FISTS...
1

I'LL GET HIM, I'LL GET WHOEVER KILLED PHIL... IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO.!

THE DAWN HAS JUST BEGUN TO SPLINTER NIGHT'S DARKNESS WITH NARROW STREAKS OF GREY.! BUT HIS HEART REMAINS COAL-BLACK WITH RAGE...

I'LL GET HIM... I'LL GET HIM.!


AND NOW, WITH MORNING BREAKING ALL ABOUT HIM, HE ENTERS PLAINVILLE AT LAST.! PLAINVILLE, THE TOWN THAT WAS HIS HOME BEFORE THE TERRIBLE TRAGEDY...
EVERYBODY'S STILL ASLEEP.! EVERYBODY EXCEPT GUS OVER AT THE RAILROAD STATION.! GUS WILL TALK.! HE WAS ALWAYS A FRIEND OF MINE.!
PL

GUS.!
BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.!

GUS, YOU HAVE TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME, GUS.!
BE GLAD TO...

DAVE.! NO.! NO.!

GUS KNOWS WHO KILLED PHIL! HE'S COVERING UP FOR SOMEBODY.' THAT'S WHY HE RAN AWAY.' NO USE CHASING HIM! BEEN WALKING TOO LONG WITHOUT FOOD.' COULDN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH HIM.'

THERE'S MORT.' I FORGOT ALL ABOUT MORT.' BUT THERE HE IS, DELIVERING MILK EARLY IN THE MORNING, JUST THE WAY HE ALWAYS DID.'

I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES ON MORT RUNNING AWAY.' I'LL SNEAK UP ON HIM... GRAB HIM.'

MORT.'
GASP.'

MORT, I'VE COME BACK.' AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME? I'M BEEN SICK... BUT I'M BACK NOW.' MORT, WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME THAT PHIL WAS KILLED?

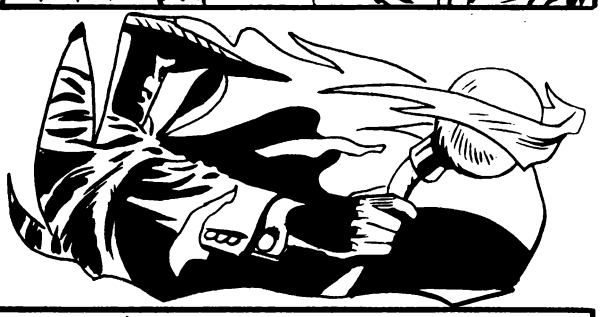
EVERYBODY IN PLAINVILLE KNOWS THAT PHIL WAS MY BEST FRIEND.' WHY DID I HAVE TO READ ABOUT HIS MURDER IN A BACK ISSUE OF A NEWSPAPER AT THE HOSPITAL? WHY, MORT, WHY?

I... I DON'T KNOW, DAVE! I JUST DON'T KNOW!
YOU'RE LYING!

YOU WOULDN'T BE SHAKING THIS WAY IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW! COLD SWEAT WOULDN'T BE RUNNING DOWN YOUR FACE! YOU KNOW ALL RIGHT, MORT!

AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME! IF YOU DON'T, I SWEAR I'LL...

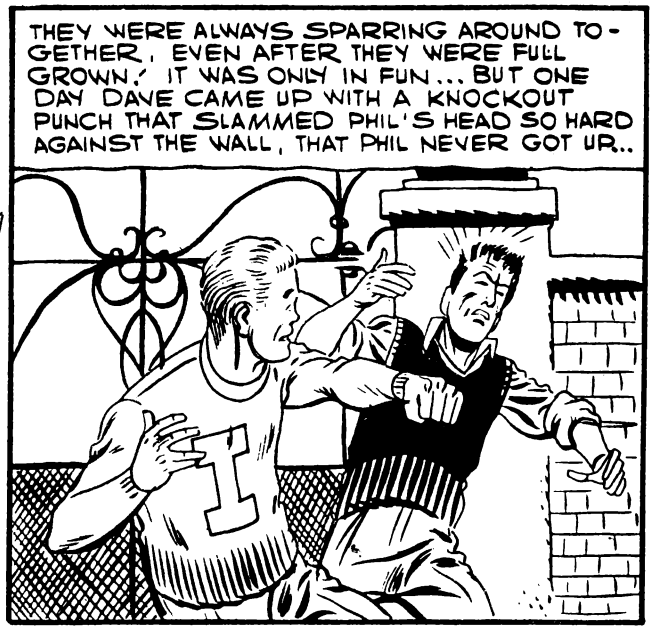
I GOT HIM!



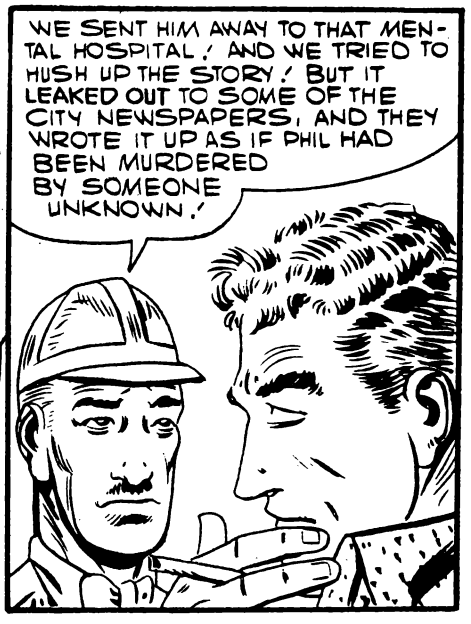
LET GO OF ME! LET GO!
HOLD HIM TIGHT! WE'VE GOT THE NEW DOCTOR WITH US! HE'LL QUIET HIM DOWN!

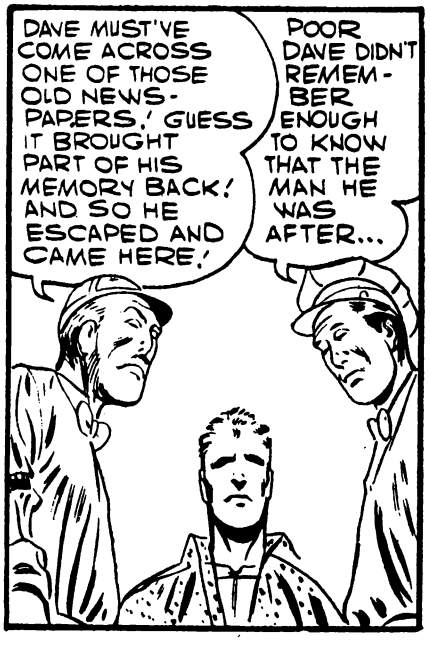
HE'S ASLEEP NOW! LAY HIM DOWN... AND THEN TALK FAST! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

THIS HAPPENED BEFORE YOU CAME TO PLAINVILLE, DOCTOR!
DAVE AND PHIL HAD BEEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS EVER SINCE THEY WERE KIDS!

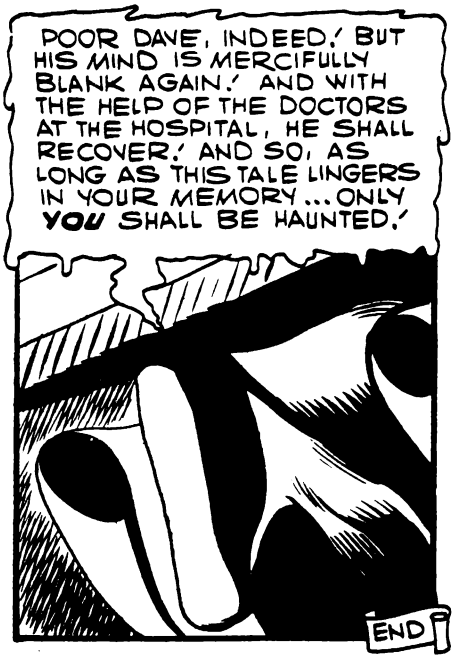

THEY WERE ALWAYS SPARRING AROUND TOGETHER, EVEN AFTER THEY WERE FULL GROWN! IT WAS ONLY IN FUN... BUT ONE DAY DAVE CAME UP WITH A KNOCKOUT PUNCH THAT SLAMMED PHIL'S HEAD SO HARD AGAINST THE WALL, THAT PHIL NEVER GOT UP..

DAVE WAS SO SHOCKED, HIS MIND CRACKED RIGHT ON THE SPOT! HE BLANKED OUT... DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE WAS..!

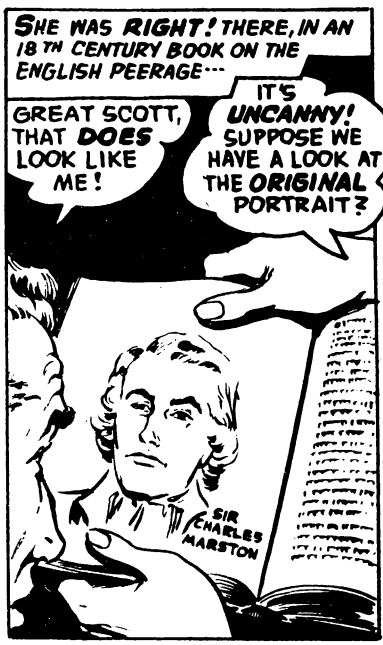

WE SENT HIM AWAY TO THAT MENTAL HOSPITAL! AND WE TRIED TO HUSH UP THE STORY! BUT IT LEAKED OUT TO SOME OF THE CITY NEWSPAPERS, AND THEY WROTE IT UP AS IF PHIL HAD BEEN MURDERED BY SOMEONE UNKNOWN!

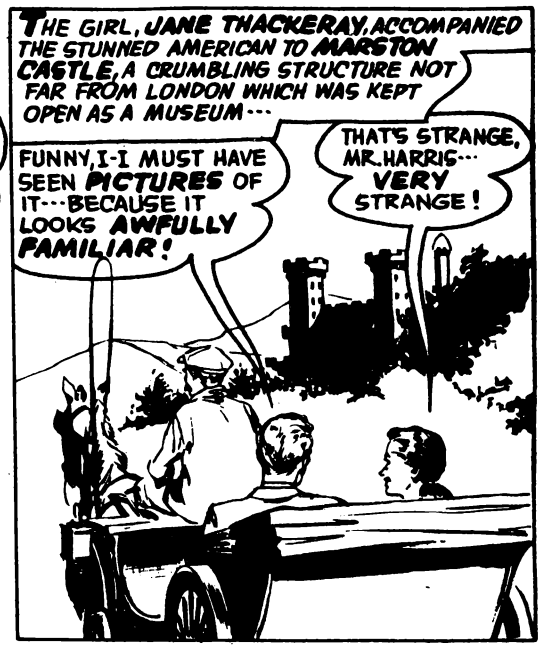

DAVE MUST'VE COME ACROSS ONE OF THOSE OLD NEWSPAPERS! GUESS IT BROUGHT PART OF HIS MEMORY BACK! AND SO HE ESCAPED AND CAME HERE!
POOR DAVE DIDN'T REMEMBER ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE MAN HE WAS AFTER...

...WAS HIMSELF!


POOR DAVE, INDEED! BUT HIS MIND IS MERCIFULLY BLANK AGAIN! AND WITH THE HELP OF THE DOCTORS AT THE HOSPITAL, HE SHALL RECOVER! AND SO, AS LONG AS THIS TALE LINGERS IN YOUR MEMORY... ONLY YOU SHALL BE HAUNTED!
END

The FACE in the PORTRAIT



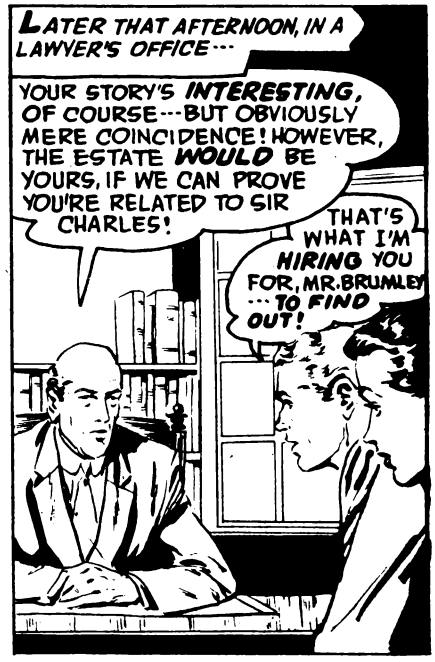


TO THE DAZED AMERICAN, IT WAS LIKE REVISITING A SCENE FROM A FARAWAY CHILDHOOD---
YOUR ANCESTORS WERE ENGLISH, WEREN'T THEY, MR. HARRIS?
MY FAMILY TREE'S ALL MIXED UP---BUT THERE WERE A COUPLE OF BRITISHERS AROUND!

BEFORE THE DOOR OF THE MASTER BEDROOM, ALEX HELD BACK! FOR THOUGH HE WAS A BRAVE MAN, HE RECOILED BEFORE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE! THEN---
BLIMEY, SIR---I DIDN'T REALIZE, BUT THE PICTURE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
I KNEW IT---I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!

LIKE A MAN WALKING IN HIS SLEEP, ALEX SLOWLY APPROACHED THE TABLE WHICH STOOD AT THE SIDE OF THE BED---
WHAT'S THIS?
A PLASTER CAST OF SIR CHARLES' HAND WHICH HE HAD MADE DURING HIS LIFETIME!

IT WAS THEN THE CLIMACTIC MOMENT ARRIVED---
LOOK! THE PALM LINES ON THIS CAST AND ON MY HANDS ARE IDENTICAL! BUT THAT'S SCIENTIFICALLY IMPOSSIBLE--- UNLESS---


LATER THAT AFTERNOON, IN A LAWYER'S OFFICE---
YOUR STORY'S INTERESTING, OF COURSE---BUT OBVIOUSLY MERE COINCIDENCE! HOWEVER, THE ESTATE WOULD BE YOURS, IF WE CAN PROVE YOU'RE RELATED TO SIR CHARLES!
THAT'S WHAT I'M HIRING YOU FOR, MR. BRUMLEY---TO FIND OUT!

18 MONTHS LATER, WHEN OLD GENEOLOGICAL RECORDS ACTUALLY PROVED THE AMERICAN'S DESCENT---
THE COURT FINDS THAT YOUR TITLE TO THE PROPERTY IS CLEAR, MR. HARRIS! CONGRATULATIONS!
J-JUST LIKE THAT---I'M A MILLIONAIRE!

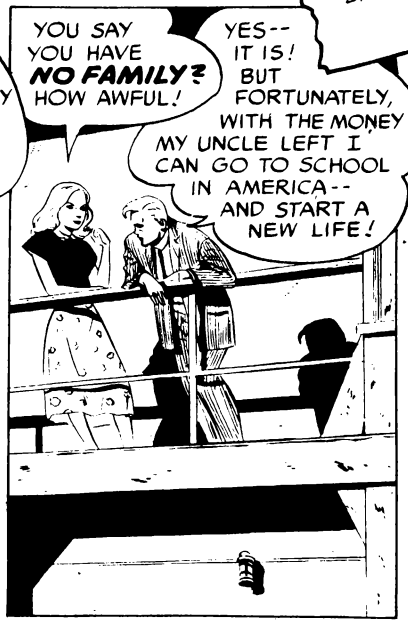
SOON AFTERWARDS, MARSTON CASTLE CEASED BEING A MUSEUM AND BECAME A HOME---FOR A VERY HAPPY YOUNG COUPLE!
DARLING, DO YOU THINK I'M ACTUALLY SIR CHARLES REINCARNATED? OR IS IT ALL---COINCIDENCE?
I DON'T KNOW, SWEETHEART---AND I REALLY DON'T CARE!
BUT STUDENTS OF THE SUPERNATURAL DO CARE! WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, READER?
THE END

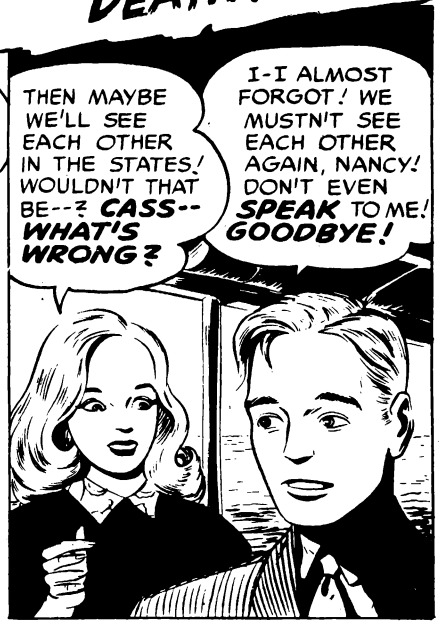
THE DRAKKO

WHY HAVE YOU SOUGHT THIS BATTLE, FOOL--NOW YOU SHALL **DIE!**

YOU HAVEN'T WON **YET,** FIEND!

BUT FOR OCCASIONAL WHISPERED TALES WHICH TRICKLE THROUGH FROM EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN FASTNESSES, STUDENTS OF THE SUPERNATURAL WOULD KNOW NOTHING OF THE FEARSOME CREATURE KNOWN AS THE **DRAKKO**-- THE MOST AWESOME AND UTTERLY EVIL DENIZEN OF THE NIGHT! THIS TENSE STORY CONCERNS ONE OF THE STRANGEST HUNTS IN HISTORY, IN WHICH HUNTER AND QUARRY MANEUVER IN A GRIM BATTLE IN WHICH DEFEAT SPELLED-- **DEATH!**



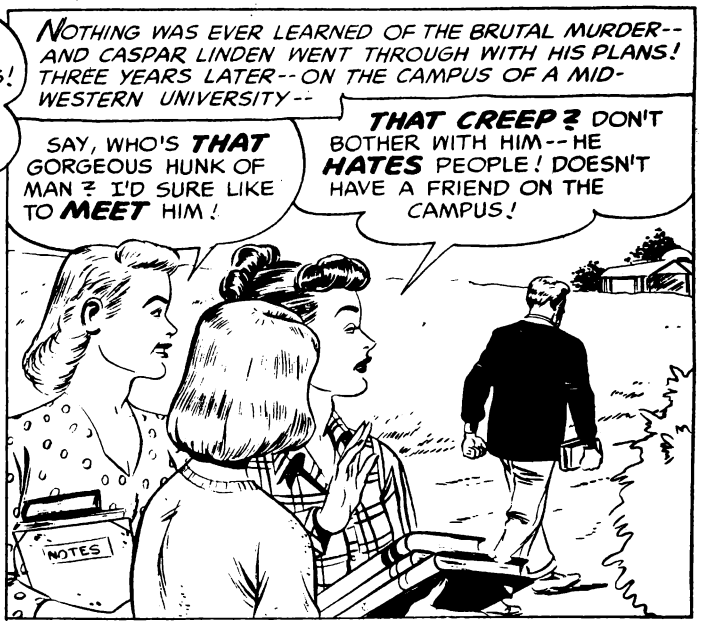


THAT NIGHT--
HOW STRANGE! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND CASS ANYWHERE! I WONDER WHY HE ACTED THAT WAY--SO TERRIFIED! I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS!
YOU WERE FRIENDS, WOMAN--WHICH IS WHY YOU MUST DIE!

OHH! H-HELP! AAGH!

LATER--
WE FOUND THE GIRL'S BODY ON DECK--HORRIBLY MANGLED! THE WHOLE SHIP IS IN A PANIC, CAPTAIN--WHAT'LL WE DO?
GRILL EVERYBODY! THE MANIAC'S GOT TO BE FOUND!

WHEN CASS WAS QUESTIONED--
SWISS NATIONAL, EH? FULL NAME CASPAR LINDEN! NOW LOOK HERE, YOU WERE SEEN IN THE MURDERED GIRL'S COMPANY! CAN YOU HELP US?
WE WERE MERELY--ACQUAINTANCES! I KNOW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!


NOTHING WAS EVER LEARNED OF THE BRUTAL MURDER--AND CASPAR LINDEN WENT THROUGH WITH HIS PLANS! THREE YEARS LATER--ON THE CAMPUS OF A MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY--
SAY, WHO'S THAT GORGEOUS HUNK OF MAN? I'D SURE LIKE TO MEET HIM!
THAT CREEP? DON'T BOTHER WITH HIM--HE HATES PEOPLE! DOESN'T HAVE A FRIEND ON THE CAMPUS!
NOTES

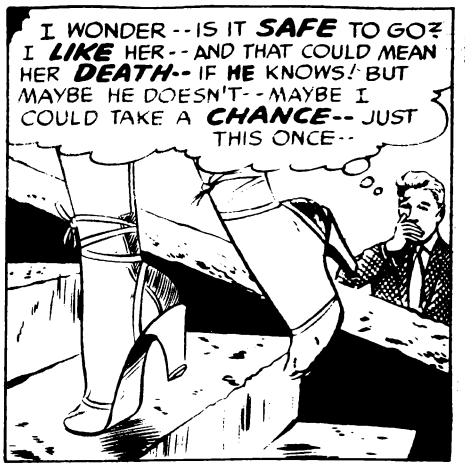
BUT WHY? HE'S GOT SUCH SAD EYES--I'LL BET HE'S JUST SHY! I'M GOING TO STRIKE UP AN ACQUAINTANCE!
SUIT YOURSELF, MARGIE! BUT WHY BOTHER WITH A GUY WHO NEVER GOES TO PARTIES OR PROMS--AND INSISTS ON LIVING ALONE AT THE DORM?

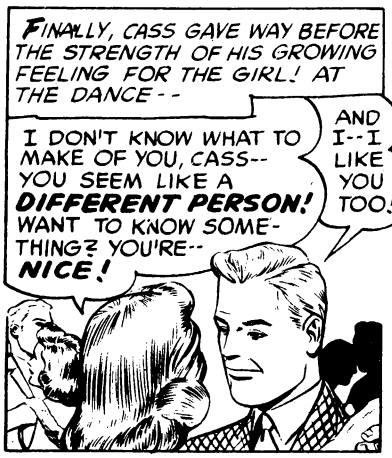
NEXT DAY, USING A RUSE TO MEET THE STRANGE STUDENT--
I'M MARGIE SCOTT! HOW'S ABOUT MAKING LIFE EASY FOR ME AND BUYING A COUPLE OF TICKETS TO THE SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE? THEY'RE AWFUL CHEAP AND EVERYBODY--
NO! PLEASE, WHY DON'T ALL OF YOU LEAVE ME ALONE? MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

WELL, OF ALL THE NERVE! I WAS ONLY TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY!
IT'S--NO USE! I CAN'T KEEP AVOIDING PEOPLE--I'LL GO MAD! MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO END MY LIFE AND THIS AGONY TOGETHER! I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE!
BUT ALONE IN HIS ROOM--DEFIANCE SUDDENLY ASSERTED ITSELF!
HEAR ME, YOU DEMON! I WON'T GIVE UP! I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE SOME DAY! I'LL HOLD OUT AND ERASE YOU FROM THE EARTH! YOU HAVEN'T WON YET! I'LL NEVER SURRENDER!
SUDDENLY--FROM THE VOID--WILD, GHOSTLY LAUGHTER!
STOP LAUGHING, DRAKKO! YOU WON'T DRIVE ME MAD! SOME DAY I'LL KILL YOU--KILL YOU!
HAA HA! HA HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE OF CASS'S FACULTY ADVISOR--
YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT STUDENT ACADEMICALLY, CASS--BUT SOCIALLY, YOU'RE A DUD! YOU HAVEN'T JOINED A FRATERNITY--OR BEEN FRIENDLY TO ANYBODY! NOW I'M GIVING A LITTLE PARTY TONIGHT AND--
I'M SORRY, SIR--I CAN'T GO!
LOOK, YOUNG MAN, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! I WANT YOU TO START MEETING PEOPLE! I'M ORDERING YOU TO BE AT MY HOME TONIGHT--8:30 SHARP!
ALL...ALL RIGHT, SIR! IF YOU--INSIST--
AT 8:30--
I UNDERSTAND THAT SNERD CASS LINDEN IS COMING! HE COMES ON LIKE A MIGRAINE HEADACHE!
I'VE BEEN THINKING, SUE, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM--TERRIBLY WRONG! THERE'S FEAR IN THE POOR GUY'S EYES--HE NEEDS HELP! THERE HE IS NOW--I'M GIVING THIS ANOTHER TRY!
HELLO, HANDSOME! STILL AFRAID OF GIRLS?
I-I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, MISS! I'D EXPLAIN--BUT YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! CAN I GET YOU A GLASS OF PUNCH?
SO YOU CAN BE NICE--IF YOU TRY! WELL, WELL! PLEASE DON'T THINK ME FORWARD, MR. LINDEN--BUT YOU INTEREST ME!
YOU'RE VERY--KIND!
CLICK!

THE EVENING PASSED SWIMMINGLY--
I'VE HAD A SWELL TIME, MARGE! BUT ABOUT THAT DANCE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, I DON'T THINK--
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU, CASS? DON'T YOU LIKE ME?

I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER! CALL FOR ME AT NINE--I'LL BE WAITING! G'NIGHT!
BUT, MARGE -I-- I--


I WONDER--IS IT SAFE TO GO? I LIKE HER--AND THAT COULD MEAN HER DEATH--IF HE KNOWS! BUT MAYBE HE DOESN'T--MAYBE I COULD TAKE A CHANCE--JUST THIS ONCE--


FINALLY, CASS GAVE WAY BEFORE THE STRENGTH OF HIS GROWING FEELING FOR THE GIRL! AT THE DANCE--
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF YOU, CASS--YOU SEEM LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON! WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING? YOU'RE--NICE!
AND I--I LIKE YOU TOO!

A STARRY NIGHT, A LONELY STRETCH OF THE ROAD--AND TWO YOUNG PEOPLE DISCOVERED LOVE!
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, MARGE! I'VE NEVER MET--
DON'T SAY ANYTHING, CASS--I FEEL THE SAME WAY!

SUDDENLY--
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
CASS! THAT INSANE LAUGHTER! WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
IT'S HIM! THE DRAKKO! I'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
HA!
HA!

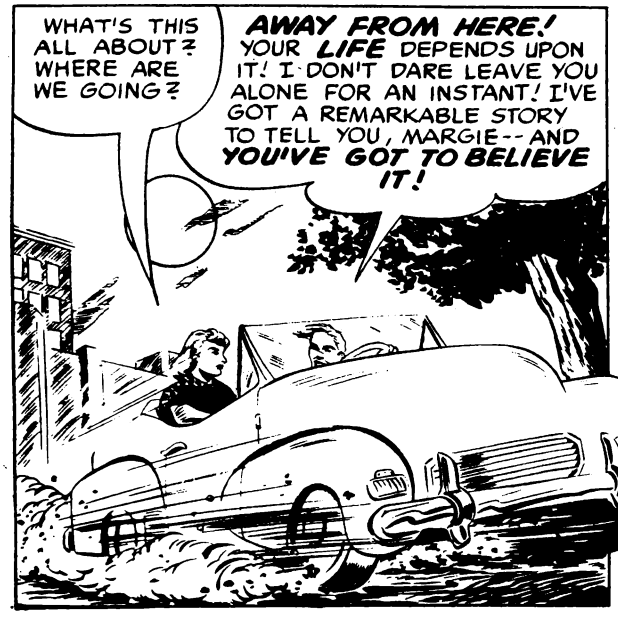
AFTER A WILD RIDE BACK TO THE CAMPUS--
PACK YOUR THINGS! GO HOME! YOU MUSTN'T EVER SEE ME AGAIN!
CASS! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

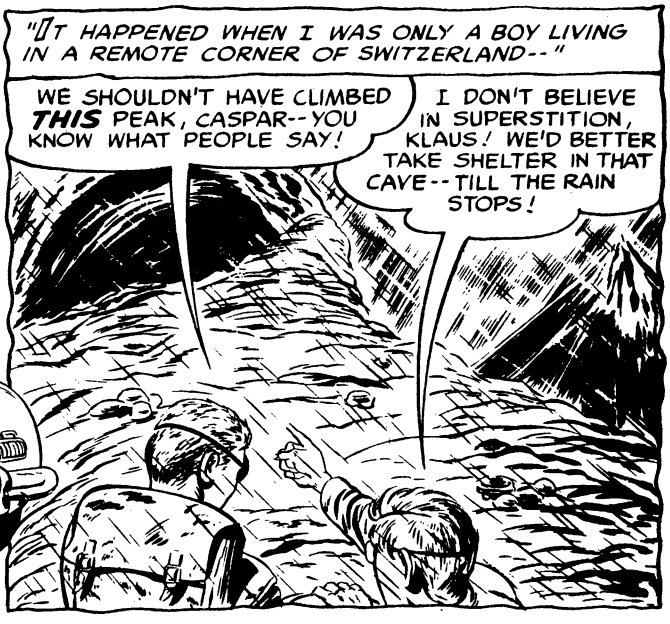
THEN ALONE IN HIS ROOM--
YOU WON'T GET HER, DRAKKO! YOU HEAR ME? SHE'S INNOCENT! LEAVE HER ALONE!
HA! HA! HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

THEN, AS A FEARSOME CREATURE TOOK SHAPE--
HAA HA HA! FOOL, SHE WILL DIE--LIKE THE OTHERS! THUS IT WILL BE EVER--TILL YOU DESTROY YOURSELF! NOW I GO--TO MY TASK!

NO--WAIT! DON'T! WHAT THE--? HE'S GONE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO MARGIE--BEFORE HE DOES!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE--YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
CALL THE POLICE!


WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
AWAY FROM HERE! YOUR LIFE DEPENDS UPON IT! I DON'T DARE LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR AN INSTANT! I'VE GOT A REMARKABLE STORY TO TELL YOU, MARGIE--AND YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IT!


"IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS ONLY A BOY LIVING IN A REMOTE CORNER OF SWITZERLAND--"
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE CLIMBED THIS PEAK, CASPAR--YOU KNOW WHAT PEOPLE SAY!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUPERSTITION, KLAUS! WE'D BETTER TAKE SHELTER IN THAT CAVE--TILL THE RAIN STOPS!

"DEEP WITHIN THE GHASTLY CAVE--WE CAME UPON A TERRIBLE SIGHT!"
C-CASPAR--WHAT IS IT? IT LOOKS LIKE A--A--
IT--IT IS! COME--WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE BEFORE IT WAKES UP, KLAUS!

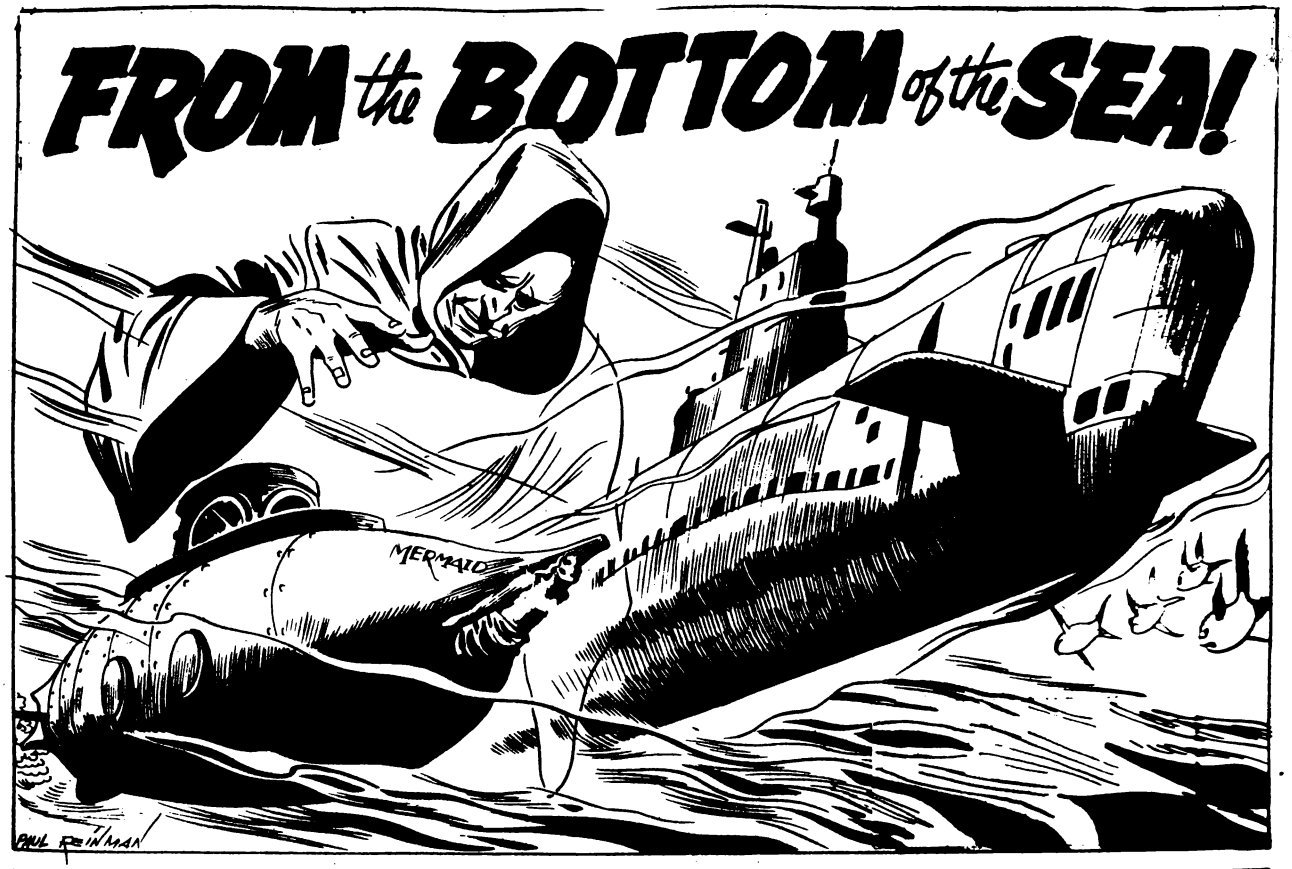
"LUCK WAS WITH US--AND WE RETURNED TO THE SMALL VILLAGE SAFELY--"
WE--WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE UP THERE! BUT IT'S REAL, CASPAR--REAL!
I KNOW! BUT WE MUST TELL NO ONE ABOUT THIS--EVER! PEOPLE WHISPER ABOUT THE DRAKKO, KLAUS--BUT THEY'D SAY WE WERE LYING!

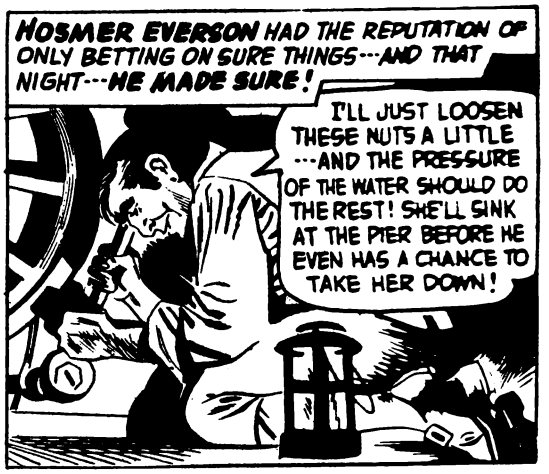
"BUT THAT NIGHT--AS I TOSSED IN THE GRIP OF A NIGHTMARE--"
IT'S THE DRAKKO--COMING FOR ME! STAY BACK--BACK!
CASPAR--WAKE UP! WHAT'S WRONG?

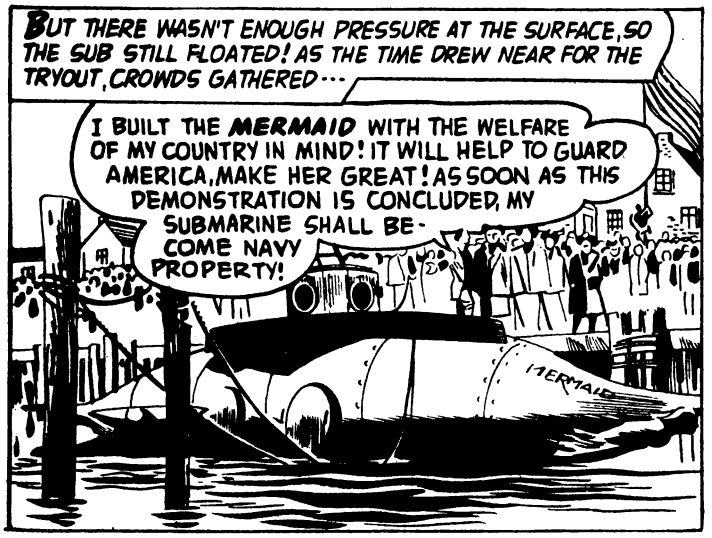
"IN MY PANIC-- I TOLD MY FATHER EVERYTHING--"
NONSENSE, CASPAR! IT IS TRUE THAT PEOPLE CALL IT THE DEVIL'S PEAK-- AND CLAIM THAT A FEARSOME MONSTER DWELLS THERE, BUT IT IS MERE TALK! TOMORROW WE'LL GO TOGETHER AND I'LL PROVE IT!
NO-- WE MUSTN'T!
"BUT MY FATHER WAS A STUBBORN MAN! NEXT DAY--"
THE LEGENDS ABOUT THE CREATURE ARE STUPID! IT IS SAID THAT HE WHO SEES THE DRAKKO IN HIS LAIR AND COMES AWAY UNSCATHED CAN NEVER AFTERWARDS BE KILLED BY HIM-- BUT THAT HE CAN DESTROY THE DRAKKO!
FATHER, PLEASE-- LET'S TURN BACK!
"NO SOONER HAD WE ENTERED THE DARK CAVE THAN, SPRINGING FROM THE SHADOWS--"
HIMMEL! IT'S-- TRUE! AAGH!
NO-- DON'T!
"IN A MOMENT, THE GHASTLY DEED WAS OVER! THEN, TURNING ON ME--"
SO IT WAS YOU WHO ENTERED MY LAIR YESTERDAY! WHEN I AWOKE I SAW HUMAN FOOTPRINTS! YOU THINK YOU ARE SAFE-- BUT YOU'RE WRONG! THE INFERNAL LAWS FORBID ME TO KILL YOU, BUT SINCE YOU ARE A THREAT TO ME-- I SHALL FORCE YOU TO DIE BY YOUR OWN HAND!
WELL I KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOUR STRENGTH MAY BE ENOUGH TO VANQUISH ME-- IF WE EVER COME TO COMBAT! BUT LISTEN WELL, FOOL-- I WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN! BEFORE YOUR HANDS CAN REACH MY THROAT, I HAVE THE POWER OF MAKING MYSELF INVISIBLE! BUT LONG BEFORE THEN I WILL DRIVE YOU MAD-- MAKE YOU LONG FOR DEATH!
WHEN I FINALLY GOT MY FATHER DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN-- I LEARNED THAT MY MOTHER HAD BEEN KILLED-- BY THE DRAKKO! SO I WENT TO LIVE WITH MY UNCLE-- AND THE DRAKKO CLAIMED HIM! SO IT HAS BEEN ALL MY LIFE-- HE'S TRIED TO MAKE MY LIFE SO MISERABLE THAT I'D DESTROY MYSELF! BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON HIM-- I'LL TEAR HIM TO SHREDS!
YOU-- YOU'RE MAD! STARK, RAVING MAD!
THINK SO? COMING TO AMERICA I BEFRIENDED A GIRL ON THE BOAT-- SHE DIED HORRIBLY! YOU'LL DIE TOO-- BECAUSE THE DRAKKO KNOWS HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME! I'M TAKING YOU TO AN ABANDONED MOUNTAIN CABIN NEARBY-- WHERE I PRAY YOU'LL BE SAFE TILL I THINK OF SOME WAY TO MAKE THE DRAKKO SHOW HIMSELF!
BUT HE'LL NEVER TAKE BODILY FORM-- BECAUSE HE KNOWS I CAN-- WAIT! TELLING YOU THE STORY JUST NOW-- I REMEMBERED A CRUCIAL FACT! THERE IS A WAY TO GET THE DRAKKO TO MATERIALIZE-- BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!
OH, ALL RIGHT! BUT WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
6

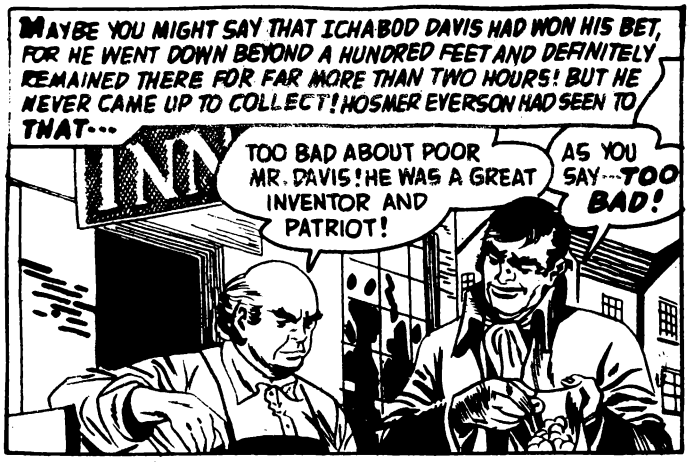
TWENTY MINUTES LATER, AS A TRANSATLANTIC PERSON-TO-PERSON CALL WAS PUT THROUGH TO SWITZERLAND--
YES, CASPAR, I UNDERSTAND! OF COURSE! RIGHT AWAY! WHY DIDN'T WE THINK OF IT BEFORE? I'LL TAKE THE NEXT PLANE FOR AMERICA!
WAITING TENSELY BEFORE THE ISOLATED CABIN IN WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN REFUGE--
LOOK--A CAR'S COMING!
IT'S HIM! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW, MARGE! FOLLOW MY ORDERS--AND PRAY!
THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER AND MARGIE WERE LEFT ALONE IN THE CABIN! SCANT MINUTES LATER--
THE DANGER STARTS NOW--WITHOUT CASPAR TO PROTECT YOU!
LOOK! BEHIND YOU! SOMETHING'S TAKING SHAPE!
IT'S TRUE--TRUE! AND I THOUGHT HE WAS MAD!
FIRST YOU WILL DIE, FOOL--WHOEVER YOU ARE! AND THEN--THE GIRL!
BUT AS THE STRANGER SUDDENLY GAVE POWERFUL RESISTANCE--
AAGH! A TRICK! NO ORDINARY MORTAL COULD WITHSTAND MY POWER!
CASS! COME QUICKLY! I'VE GOT HIM--IN MY HANDS!
AS CASS LEAPED FROM HIS HIDING PLACE--
AT LAST! NOW, DEMON--FEEL WHAT IT IS TO HAVE THE BREATH CHOKED IN YOUR THROAT! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME NOW--THIS IS YOUR DEATH!
AIEEEE!
TIGHTER AND TIGHTER GREW THE DEATH GRIP! THEN THE DEMON'S STRUGGLES WANED, THE BODY GREW LIMP--AND--
HE'S--DEAD! I'VE WON--WON!
YES, CASPAR--WE TRICKED HIM INTO TAKING BODILY FORM! HE KNEW HE COULDN'T VANQUISH YOU--BECAUSE YOU'D SEEN HIM IN HIS LAIR AND ESCAPED UNSCATHED! BUT HE NEVER KNEW THAT I HAD DONE IT TOO--YOUR OLD PAL KLAUS!
WHEN THE FIEND'S CORPSE HAD BEEN BURIED--
CASS, DARLING, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME--FOR HAVING DOUBTED YOU?
ON ONE CONDITION--THAT KLAUS BE BEST MAN AT OUR WEDDING!
The End

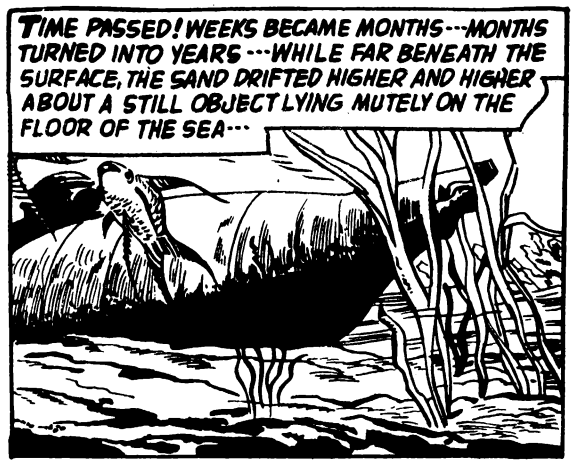
FROM the BOTTOM of the SEA!

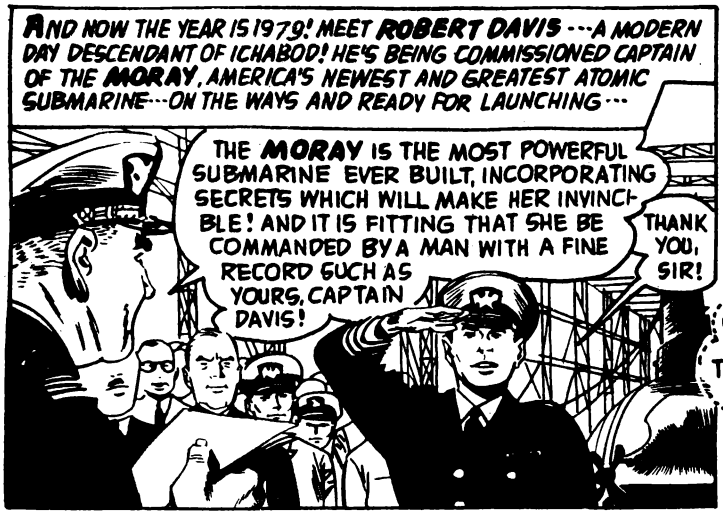


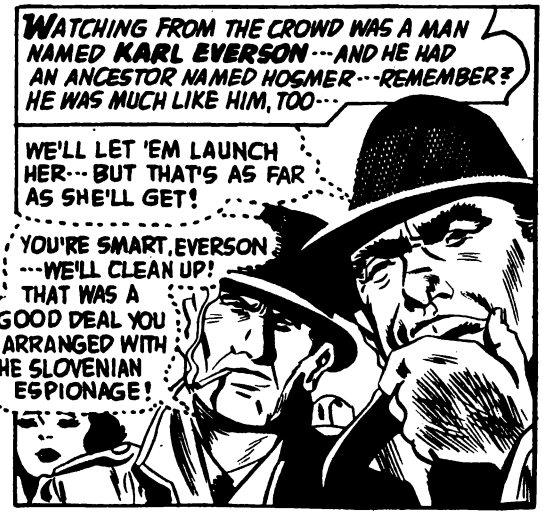





MAYBE YOU MIGHT SAY THAT ICHABOD DAVIS HAD WON HIS BET, FOR HE WENT DOWN BEYOND A HUNDRED FEET AND DEFINITELY REMAINED THERE FOR FAR MORE THAN TWO HOURS! BUT HE NEVER CAME UP TO COLLECT! HOSMER EVERSON HAD SEEN TO THAT---
INN
TOO BAD ABOUT POOR MR. DAVIS! HE WAS A GREAT INVENTOR AND PATRIOT!
AS YOU SAY---TOO BAD!


TIME PASSED! WEEKS BECAME MONTHS---MONTHS TURNED INTO YEARS---WHILE FAR BENEATH THE SURFACE, THE SAND DRIFTED HIGHER AND HIGHER ABOUT A STILL OBJECT LYING MUTELY ON THE FLOOR OF THE SEA---

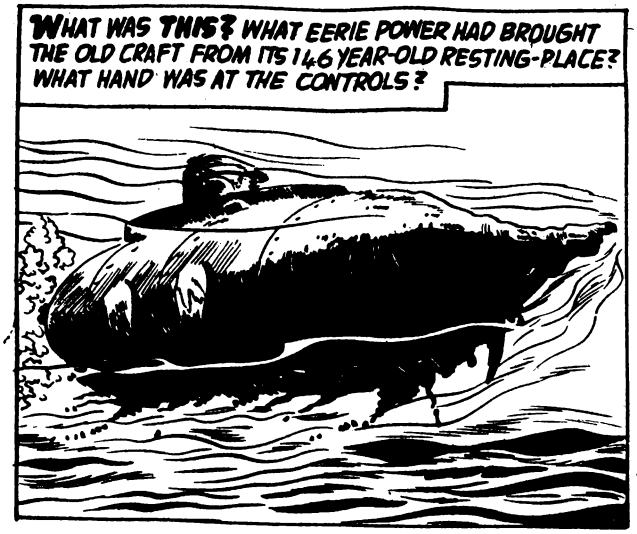

AND NOW THE YEAR IS 1979! MEET ROBERT DAVIS---A MODERN DAY DESCENDANT OF ICHABOD! HE'S BEING COMMISSIONED CAPTAIN OF THE MORAY, AMERICA'S NEWEST AND GREATEST ATOMIC SUBMARINE---ON THE WAYS AND READY FOR LAUNCHING---
THE MORAY IS THE MOST POWERFUL SUBMARINE EVER BUILT, INCORPORATING SECRETS WHICH WILL MAKE HER INVINCIBLE! AND IT IS FITTING THAT SHE BE COMMANDED BY A MAN WITH A FINE RECORD SUCH AS YOURS, CAPTAIN DAVIS!
THANK YOU, SIR!

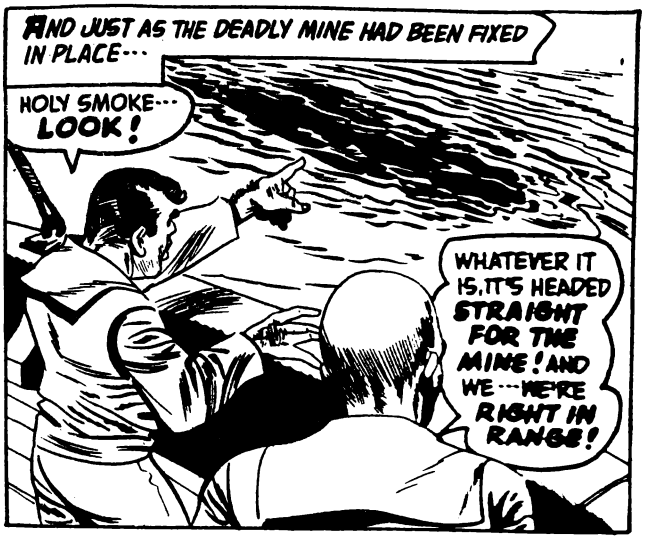

WATCHING FROM THE CROWD WAS A MAN NAMED KARL EVERSON---AND HE HAD AN ANCESTOR NAMED HOSMER---REMEMBER? HE WAS MUCH LIKE HIM, TOO---
WE'LL LET 'EM LAUNCH HER---BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS SHE'LL GET!
YOU'RE SMART, EVERSON---WE'LL CLEAN UP! THAT WAS A GOOD DEAL YOU ARRANGED WITH THE SLOVENIAN ESPIONAGE!

THE LAUNCHING OF THE MORAY WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOON NEXT DAY! BUT THAT NIGHT CAME STRANGE HAPPENINGS---
WE GOT RID OF THOSE GUARDS ON SCHEDULE AND GRABBED THEIR UNIFORMS---AT LEAST, WE'LL LOOK LEGITIMATE IF ANYBODY QUESTIONS US!
EVERYTHING'S MOVING LIKE CLOCKWORK! THE TUG'S DUE WITH THE MINE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES---HOPE THEY'RE ON SCHEDULE, EVERSON!

YES, EVERYTHING WAS ON SCHEDULE! THIS WAS TO BE A MINE-PLANTING OF A VERY SPECIAL SORT---
THIS SUPERSTRUCTURE WILL HOLD THE MINE IN A RIGID POSITION DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE MORAY'S LAUNCHING! IT CAN'T MISS!
STRAIGHT DOWN THE WAYS AND---WHAM! HA-HA!

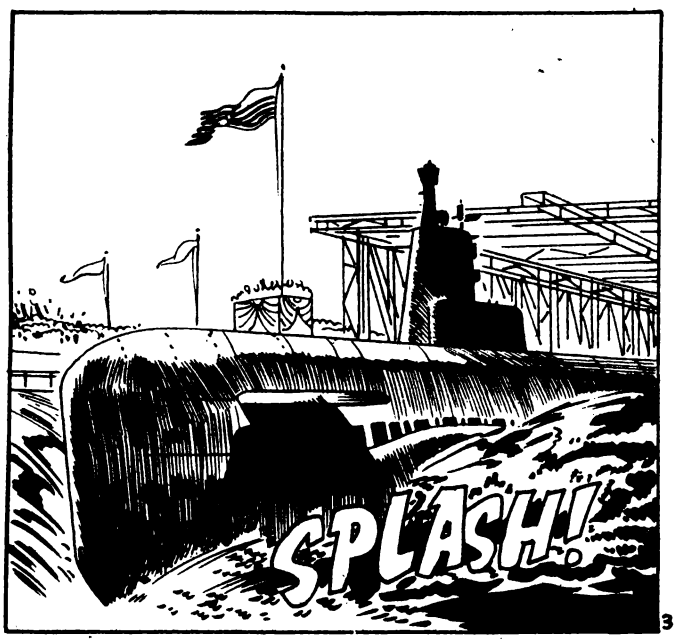
IT WAS A MOMENT OF TERRIBLE DANGER FOR AMERICA! BUT A FEW MILES AWAY, FAR BELOW THE ROLLING WAVES, SOMETHING VERY, VERY ODD WAS HAPPENING! FROM THE FLOOR OF THE OCEAN---
GRR CRUNCH


WHAT WAS THIS? WHAT EERIE POWER HAD BROUGHT THE OLD CRAFT FROM ITS 146 YEAR-OLD RESTING-PLACE? WHAT HAND WAS AT THE CONTROLS?


AND JUST AS THE DEADLY MINE HAD BEEN FIXED IN PLACE···
HOLY SMOKE··· LOOK!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE MINE! AND WE···WE'RE RIGHT IN RANGE!

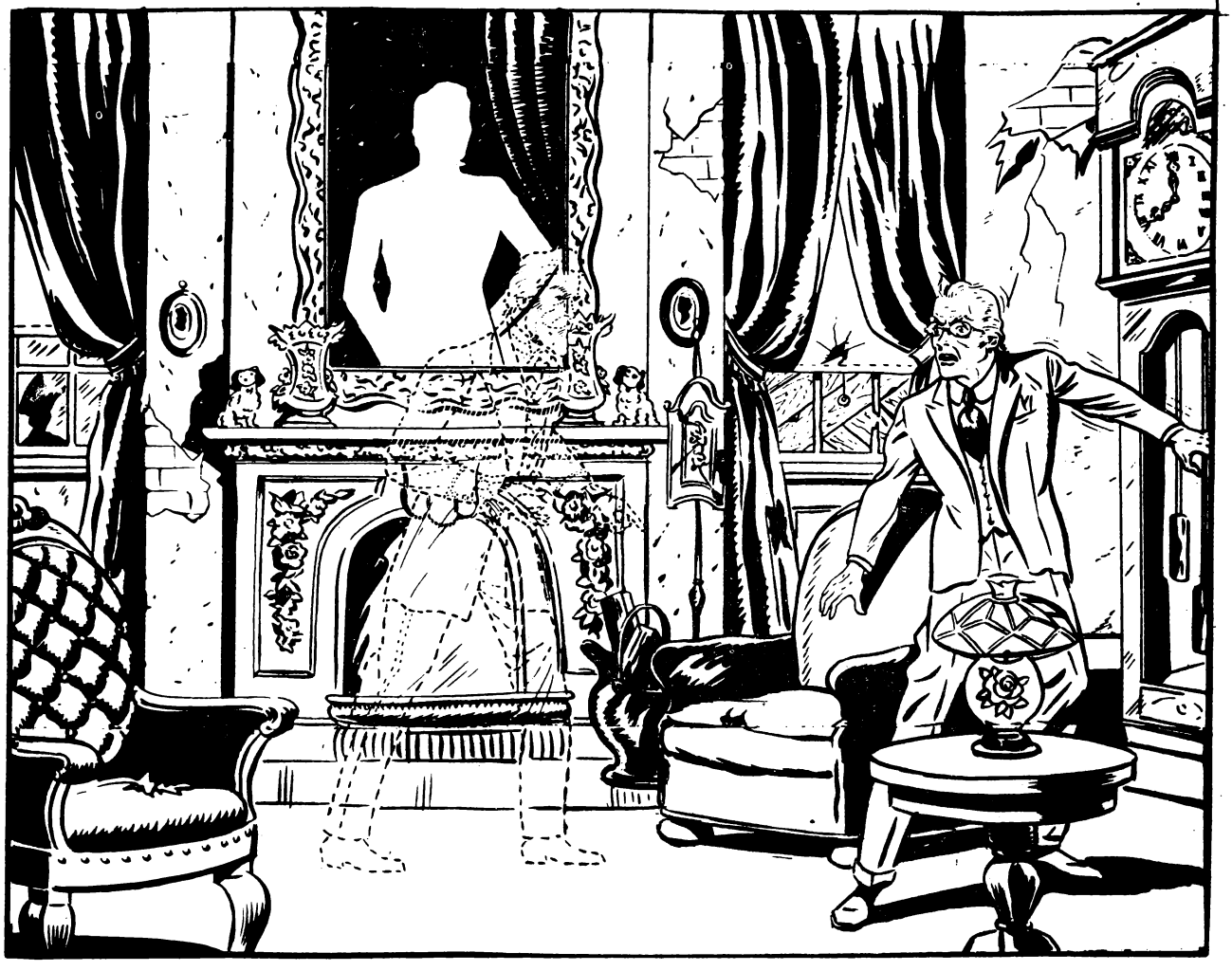
THERE WAS NO TIME FOR ESCAPE! AND IN THE TERRIFIC EXPLOSION WHICH FOLLOWED, EVERSON AND HIS FELLOW-PLOTTERS MET THEIR END···
BOOM!

THERE WAS NO NEED TO HOLD UP THE CEREMONIES NEXT DAY···
LET HER GO!
AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU AND HER BOTH!


SPLASH!

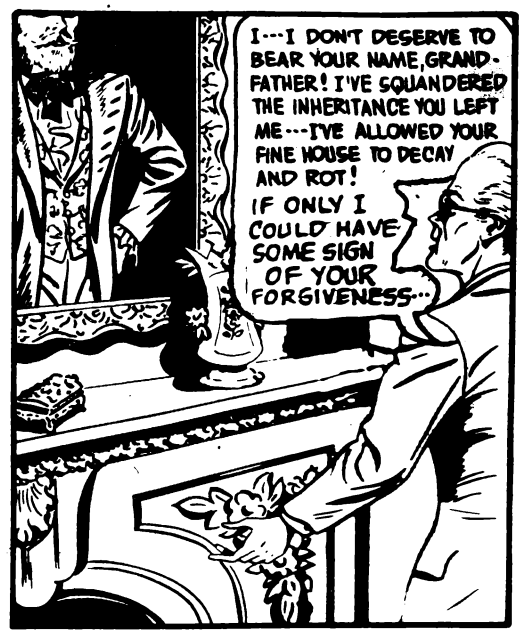
AND WITH THE MORAY AT SEA ON MANEUVERS UNDER CAPTAIN DAVIS, AN INVESTIGATION PROCEEDED INTO THE STRANGE EXPLOSION THAT HAD OCCURRED THE NIGHT BEFORE THE LAUNCHING! IT REMAINED A MYSTERY···BECAUSE THE ONLY THING THEY COULD FIND INTACT WAS···
WE SCRAPED OFF THE BARNACLES, SIR···AND THAT'S WHAT WAS UNDERNEATH!
HMMM···MERMAID···I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF IT!
MERMAID
THE END!

BACK to YESTERDAY!



SHE'S GONE ---AND I'M ALONE! SEVENTY YEARS OF A WASTED LIFE! OH, IF ONLY I COULD HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO LIVE MY LIFE OVER AGAIN---TO DO SOME GOOD WITH IT---

BUT THAT'S FOOLISH! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME NOW BUT--- THE DIARY OF A MISSPENT LIFE---
DIA

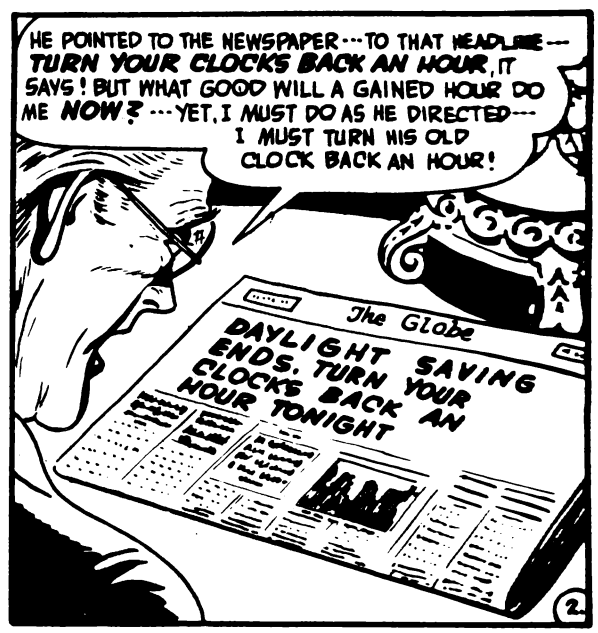

I---I DON'T DESERVE TO BEAR YOUR NAME, GRANDFATHER! I'VE SQUANDERED THE INHERITANCE YOU LEFT ME---I'VE ALLOWED YOUR FINE HOUSE TO DECAY AND ROT!
IF ONLY I COULD HAVE SOME SIGN OF YOUR FORGIVENESS---

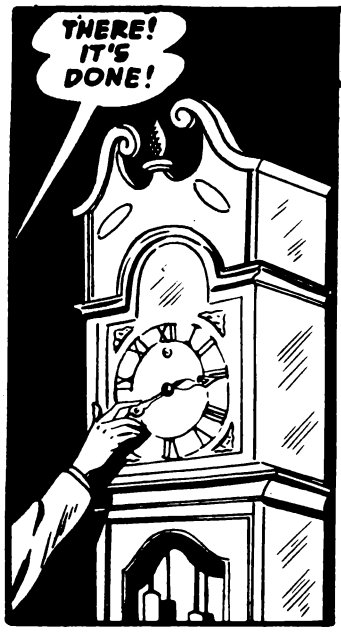
WHAT---! SOMETHING'S GRIPPING MY WRIST---

GRANDFATHER! IT---IT CAN'T BE YOU! YOU'VE BEEN DEAD FORTY YEARS! WHY--- WHY DO YOU POINT TO THE NEWSPAPER?
The Globe
DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS. TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR TONIGHT

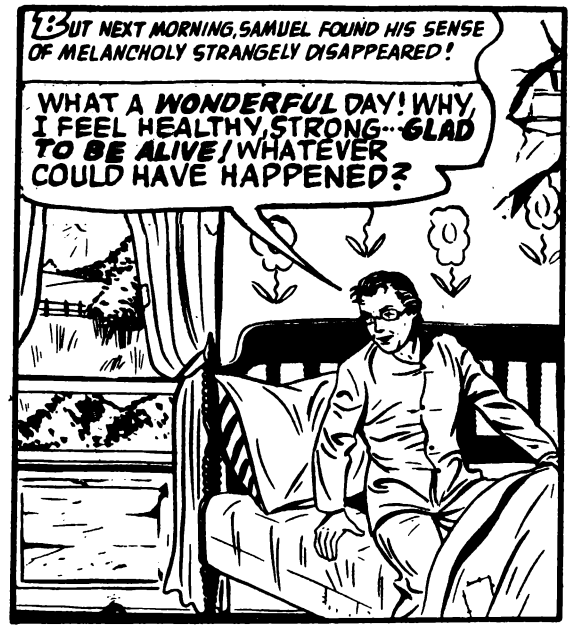
THEN, NEXT MOMENT---
IT'S---IT'S GONE!--- MY IMAGINATION---THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!

BUT IT WAS TOO VIVID NOT TO HAVE BEEN REAL! EVEN NOW---THE WAY HE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING AT ME---


HE POINTED TO THE NEWSPAPER---TO THAT HEADLINE--- TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR, IT SAYS! BUT WHAT GOOD WILL A GAINED HOUR DO ME NOW? ---YET, I MUST DO AS HE DIRECTED--- I MUST TURN HIS OLD CLOCK BACK AN HOUR!
The Globe
DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS. TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR TONIGHT


THERE! IT'S DONE!

I ··· FEEL WEAK ··· GOT TO HAVE REST! TOMORROW, THAT'S IT ··· MAYBE I'LL FEEL STRONGER THEN.

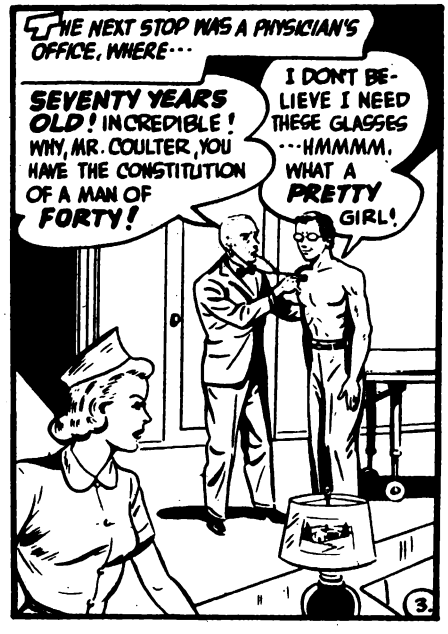

BUT NEXT MORNING, SAMUEL FOUND HIS SENSE OF MELANCHOLY STRANGELY DISAPPEARED!
WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY! WHY, I FEEL HEALTHY, STRONG ··· GLAD TO BE ALIVE! WHATEVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED?

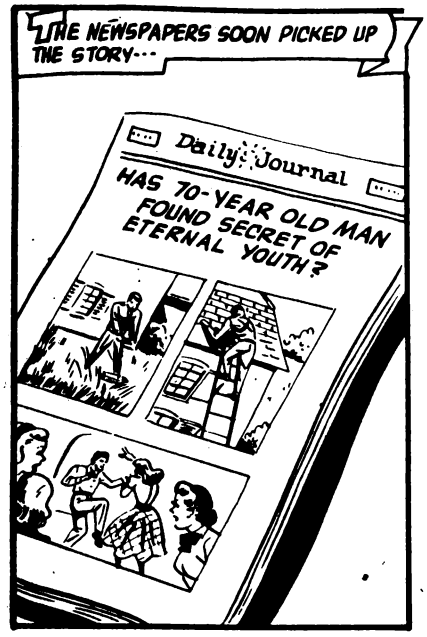
AND THEN ··· A NEW DISCOVERY!
GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK ··· IT NEVER MADE SO MUCH NOISE BEFORE ··· GOOD GRACIOUS! THE HANDS ARE RUNNING COUNTER-CLOCKWISE! SOMETHING WENT WRONG WHEN I TURNED IT BACK LAST NIGHT!
TICK TOCK!

SOMETHING WRONG? IT COULDN'T BE THE NEW-FOUND AMBITION THAT FLOODED THROUGH HIM ··· THAT SENT HIM TO HIS EASEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS!
STRANGE! MY HAIR DOESN'T SEEM AS WHITE AS USUAL ··· AND MY FACE APPEARS FULLER!

AND THEN, AT LUNCH ··· ANOTHER STRANGE DEVELOPMENT!
I ··· I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I MUST SEE DR. ROSS!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. COULTER ··· THIS IS THE MOST EXTRA-ORDINARY THING I'VE SEEN IN ALL MY YEARS OF PRACTICE! YOUR TEETH ARE GROWING BACK!

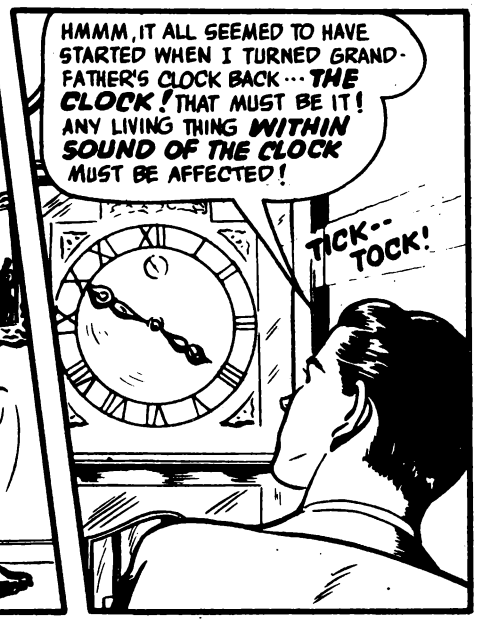

THE NEXT STOP WAS A PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE, WHERE ···
SEVENTY YEARS OLD! INCREDIBLE! WHY, MR. COULTER, YOU HAVE THE CONSTITUTION OF A MAN OF FORTY!
I DON'T BELIEVE I NEED THESE GLASSES ··· HMMMM. WHAT A PRETTY GIRL!

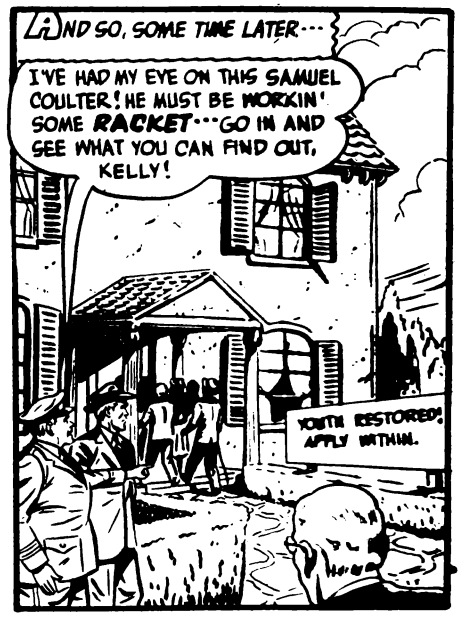

THE NEWSPAPERS SOON PICKED UP THE STORY---
Daily Journal
HAS 70-YEAR OLD MAN FOUND SECRET OF ETERNAL YOUTH?

---AND THE SENSATIONAL NEWS BROUGHT HORDES OF OLD PEOPLE, EAGER TO SHARE THE MIRACLE!
I'LL PAY ANYTHING IF YOU CAN SHOW ME HOW TO REGAIN MY YOUTH THE WAY YOU HAVE!
PLEASE---THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ---NOW---
NO! I WAS HERE FIRST!

COULD---COULD IT BE THAT A SECOND CHANCE WAS GIVEN ME? IF SO, MAYBE IT WAS FOR A PURPOSE---TO HELP POOR OLD PEOPLE LIKE THOSE! BUT HOW---HOW?

GRACIOUS! OLD TOM! HE'S---HE'S TURNED INTO A PUPPY! HE'S BEEN IN THIS ROOM---


HMMM, IT ALL SEEMED TO HAVE STARTED WHEN I TURNED GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK BACK---THE CLOCK! THAT MUST BE IT! ANY LIVING THING WITHIN SOUND OF THE CLOCK MUST BE AFFECTED!
TICK--TOCK!


AND SO, SOME TIME LATER---
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON THIS SAMUEL COULTER! HE MUST BE WORKIN' SOME RACKET---GO IN AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT, KELLY!
YOUTH RESTORED! APPLY WITHIN.

WELL, WAS I RIGHT?
HE'S A PHONY, ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN! HIS PATIENTS JUST SIT IN HIS LIVING ROOM AND DO NOTHIN' BUT LISTEN TO AN OLD CLOCK!

---WELL, I MUST BE GETTIN' ALONG! THOUGHT I'D TAKE THE MISSUS DANCIN'!
DANCIN'! HIM GOIN' DANCIN'! MUST BE IN HIS SECOND CHILDHOOD!

AT FIRST, SAMUEL'S YOUTH TREATMENTS CREATED FRENZIED ENTHUSIASM! BUT BEFORE LONG CAME---TROUBLE!
GO AWAY! YOU AREN'T THE BANK PRESIDENT---MR. BUTLER'S A MAN OF EIGHTY!
YOUNG LADY, I WARN YOU! I AM HIRAM BUTLER!
YOU FOOLS! I HAVE AN OPERATION SCHEDULED!
THE NERVE OF THAT GUY---SAYING HE'S DR. HARRIS, THE FAMOUS SURGEON! AND DR. HARRIS IN HIS SEVENTIES, AND BALD AS AN EAGLE!
WARD D-1
WHAT'S THAT? A CROWD OF YOUNG MEN RIOTING OUTSIDE SAMUEL COULTER'S HOUSE?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY WERE YOUNG MEN! WHY, THEY'RE KIDS---TEEN-AGERS!
THEY WERE IN THEIR TWENTIES WHEN I WENT TO CALL YOU, CAPTAIN! BUT WHILE I WAS GONE, THESE TEEN-AGERS MUSTA TAKEN THEIR PLACE!
POLICE
THEY'RE GETTING YOUNGER FASTER AND FASTER--- AS I AM!---THE CLOCK! I MUST STOP IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BAM!
GREAT SHAMROCKS, CAPTAIN! THEM TEEN-AGERS! THEY'VE TURNED INTA KIDDIES!
GET HOLD OF SAMUEL COULTER! IT'S MAGIC HE MUST BE WORKING---UNHOLY MAGIC!
COULTER AIN'T HERE! SEARCH THE HOUSE FER HIM--- I'LL TAKE CARE O' THIS BABY!

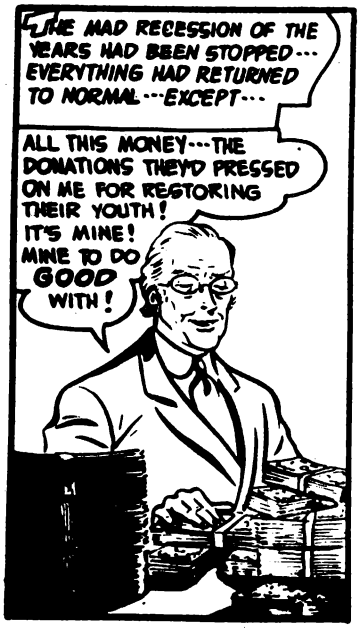
TICK-TOCK··· TICK-TOCK···
WANT TO SEE THE PRETTY CLOCK, BABY?

HEY! STOP THAT, YOU LITTLE HOODLUM! YOU'LL BREAK THE···
CRASH!

SAINTS PRESERVE US! HOW'D ···HOW'D THIS OLD GUY GIT IN ME ARMS?

YOU'RE SAMUEL COULTER! WELL, BY JINGO, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

THANK GOODNESS! I'M OLD···JUST AS I WAS! I NEVER WANT TO BE YOUNG AGAIN!
I WAS IN TIME!
PRAISE BE— WE'VE BEEN SAVED!


THE MAD RECESSION OF THE YEARS HAD BEEN STOPPED··· EVERYTHING HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL···EXCEPT···
ALL THIS MONEY···THE DONATIONS THEY'D PRESSED ON ME FOR RESTORING THEIR YOUTH! IT'S MINE! MINE TO DO GOOD WITH!

LATER···
THE SECOND CHANCE ···A PLACE WHERE OLD FOLKS CAN FORGET THEIR WORRIES AND BE HAPPY! COME IN! EVERYTHING IS FREE!

THANK YOU, GRANDFATHER, FOR MY SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE MY LIFE USEFUL, BY MAKING ALL THESE OLD PEOPLE HAPPY! AND FOR MAKING ME HAPPY, TOO··· HAPPIER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN!
THE END

MYSTERIOUS BIRD

STORY:- GREG OLIVETTI
ART:- DICK BECK

WHAT A FIND··· A BIRD NO HUMAN EYES HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE!

KARRRKK!

VICTOR LOWELL HAD TRAVELED TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH TO BRING BACK SPECIMENS OF THE WORLD'S MOST FANTASTIC WONDERS. AND THEN, ONE DAY, HIS EYES BEHELD THE MOST ASTOUNDING CREATURE OF THEM ALL···

BACK IN CIVILIZATION, VICTOR LOWELL WAS HONORED AS THE MAN WHO "BROUGHT THEM BACK ALIVE"···A FAMOUS HUNTER AND TRAVELER···

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE CAPTURED THE WORLD'S LARGEST GORILLA, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS, MR. LOWELL?

I'M PLANNING A TRIP TO TIBET. I'LL PROBABLY BE THE FIRST MAN TO CAPTURE AN "ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN!"

BUT IN THE DARK CORNERS OF THE EARTH, LOWELL HAD AN UNSAVORY REPUTATION···

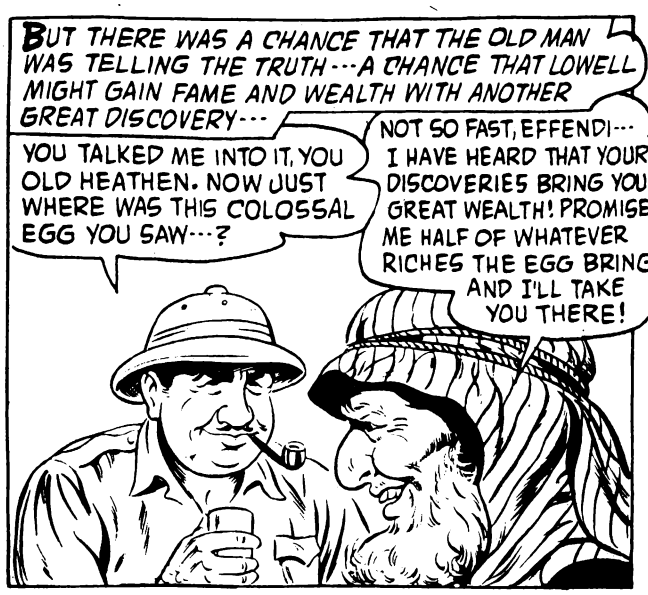
BUT SAHIB, YOU PROMISED OUR VILLAGE FIVE HUNDRED RUPEES TO CAPTURE THAT BEAST···

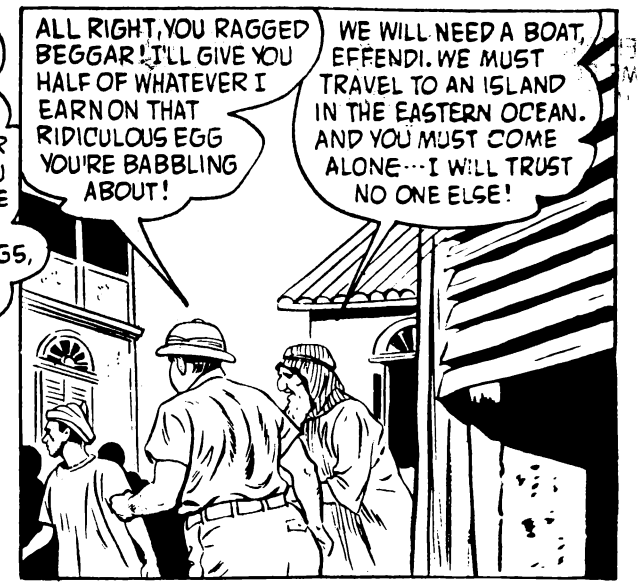
TWO HUNDRED RUPEES IS MY LAST OFFER! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

THEN, ONE DAY IN ZANZIBAR, LOWELL FOUND HIMSELF ON THE TRACK OF HIS GREATEST "FIND"···

WITH MY OWN EYES I SAW IT, EFFENDI! A HUGE EGG, TALL AS THE TALLEST TREE AND WIDE AS THE PALACE OF A SULTAN!

BAH! I TOO HAVE READ THE TALES OF SINBAD THE SAILOR AND THE GIANT BIRD CALLED A ROC! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME WITH THAT OLD FAIRY STORY!

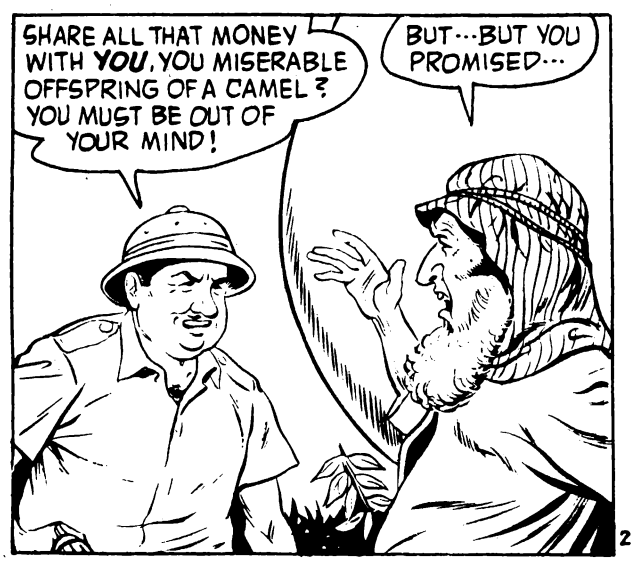

BUT THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT THE OLD MAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH---A CHANCE THAT LOWELL MIGHT GAIN FAME AND WEALTH WITH ANOTHER GREAT DISCOVERY---
YOU TALKED ME INTO IT, YOU OLD HEATHEN. NOW JUST WHERE WAS THIS COLOSSAL EGG YOU SAW---?
NOT SO FAST, EFFENDI--- I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR DISCOVERIES BRING YOU GREAT WEALTH! PROMISE ME HALF OF WHATEVER RICHES THE EGG BRINGS, AND I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!


ALL RIGHT, YOU RAGGED BEGGAR! I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF WHATEVER I EARN ON THAT RIDICULOUS EGG YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT!
WE WILL NEED A BOAT, EFFENDI. WE MUST TRAVEL TO AN ISLAND IN THE EASTERN OCEAN. AND YOU MUST COME ALONE---I WILL TRUST NO ONE ELSE!

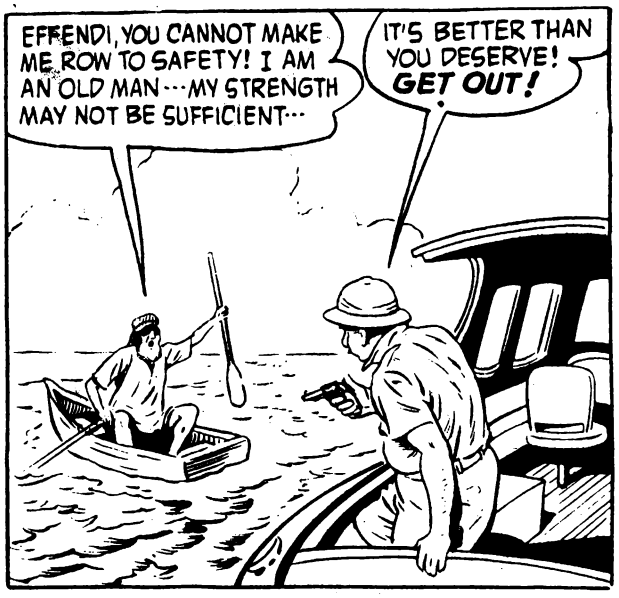
TWO DAYS LATER, OFF AN ISLAND LOST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, VICTOR LOWELL WITNESSED THE INCREDIBLE---
THE EGG! IT'S TALLER THAN THOSE PALM TREES! THEN YOU WEREN'T LYING AFTER ALL!
NO, EFFENDI. MY STORY WAS TRUE.

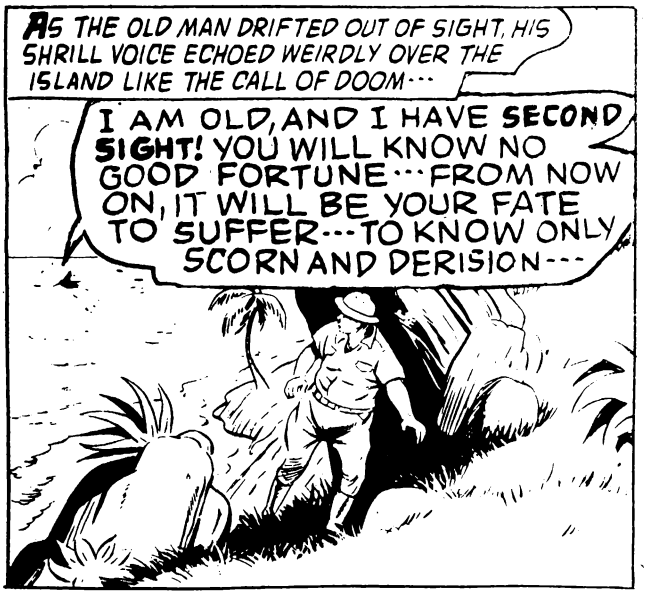
THEN THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME TRUTH BEHIND THAT TALE OF SINBAD THE SAILOR AND THE GIANT BIRD!
AYE--- AN ANCIENT LEGEND OF MY PEOPLE TELLS OF A HUGE, MYSTERIOUS BIRD THAT DESCENDED FROM THE SKY AND NESTED ON THIS ISLAND!

AT THE SIGHT OF THAT FANTASTIC EGG, LOWELL'S EYES GLITTERED WITH AVARICE---
INCREDIBLE! THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN A SIGHT LIKE THIS! WHEN I EXHIBIT THIS EGG BACK IN THE STATES, I'LL MAKE A FORTUNE!
REMEMBER, EFFENDI, YOU PROMISED THAT HALF THE MONEY WOULD BE MINE!


SHARE ALL THAT MONEY WITH YOU, YOU MISERABLE OFFSPRING OF A CAMEL? YOU MUST BE OUT OF YOUR MIND!
BUT---BUT YOU PROMISED---

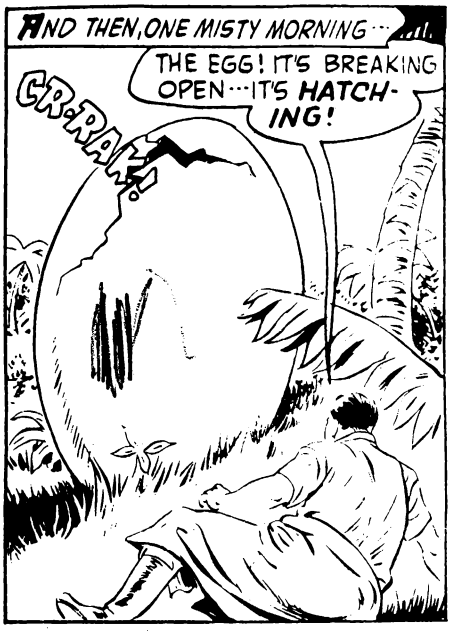
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF OF THAT? DOWN THE HILL WITH YOU! I DON'T EVEN WANT YOU AROUND TO ANNOY ME!
I---I'LL GO! D-DON'T HURT ME---


EFFENDI, YOU CANNOT MAKE ME ROW TO SAFETY! I AM AN OLD MAN···MY STRENGTH MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT···
IT'S BETTER THAN YOU DESERVE! GET OUT!

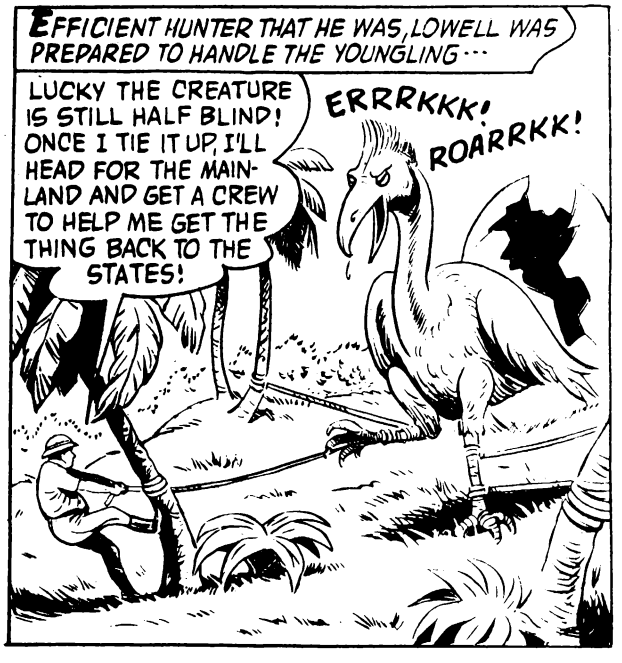

AS THE OLD MAN DRIFTED OUT OF SIGHT, HIS SHRILL VOICE ECHOED WEIRDLY OVER THE ISLAND LIKE THE CALL OF DOOM···
I AM OLD, AND I HAVE SECOND SIGHT! YOU WILL KNOW NO GOOD FORTUNE···FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BE YOUR FATE TO SUFFER···TO KNOW ONLY SCORN AND DERISION···

BUT THE OLD MAN'S WORDS WERE SOON FORGOTTEN AS LOWELL TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE EGG···
THERE MAY BE SOME GIANT BIRD IN THAT EGG! IF I COULD GET THE BLASTED THING TO HATCH, I'D GET A KING'S RANSOM FOR A CREATURE LIKE THAT!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE WARMTH OF A HUNDRED FIRES PENETRATED DEEP INTO THE IMMENSE SHELL! SOON···
SIGNS OF LIFE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT···
RAP! THUD!


AND THEN, ONE MISTY MORNING···
THE EGG! IT'S BREAKING OPEN···IT'S HATCHING!
CRRAK!

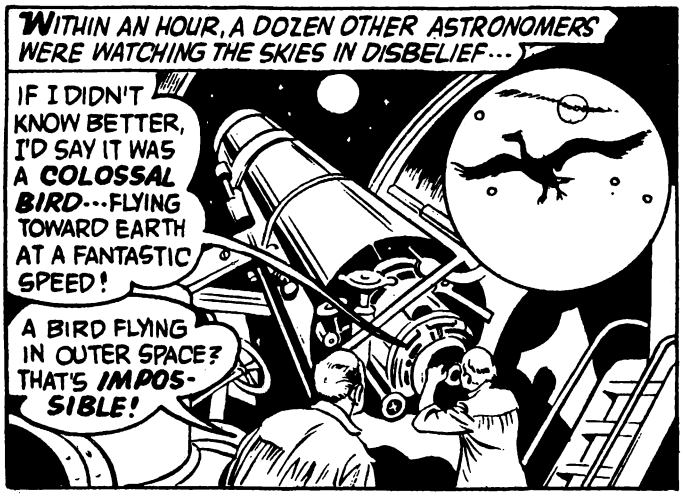
AND NOW EMERGED A CREATURE SUCH AS EARTHLY EYES HAD NOT SEEN SINCE HISTORY'S DAWN···
GREAT HEAVENS! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BIG, SO···UGLY!
GRAAAKKK!
EEEEKKKK!

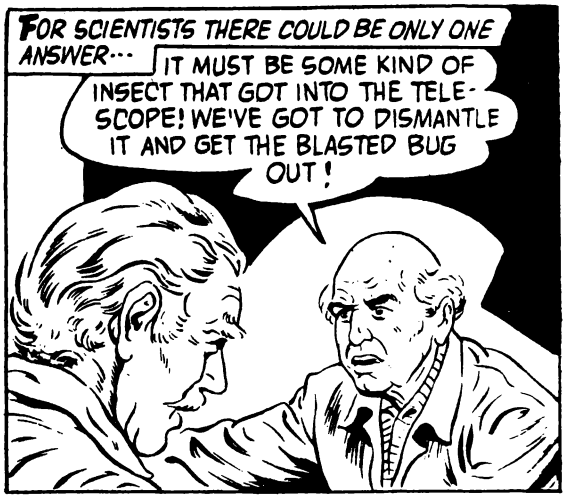

EFFICIENT HUNTER THAT HE WAS, LOWELL WAS PREPARED TO HANDLE THE YOUNGLING···
LUCKY THE CREATURE IS STILL HALF BLIND! ONCE I TIE IT UP, I'LL HEAD FOR THE MAINLAND AND GET A CREW TO HELP ME GET THE THING BACK TO THE STATES!
ERRRKKK!
ROARRKK!

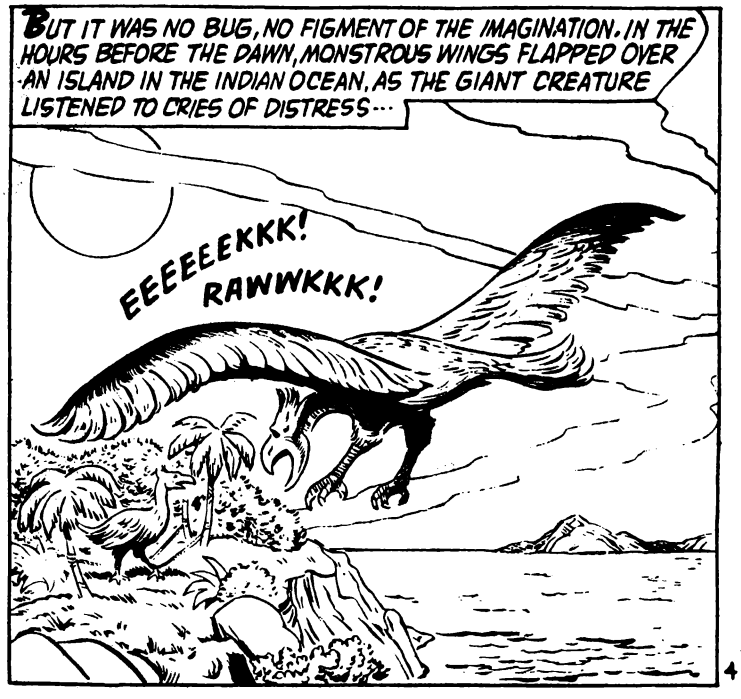
THAT NIGHT, THE ISLAND ECHOED TO THE CRIES OF THE HELPLESS BIRD···
SHUT UP, YOU CACKLING MONSTER, AND LET ME GET SOME SLEEP!
EEE-EERK!

IT WAS THEN THAT A CHILLING THOUGHT FROZE HIS BLOOD···
I WONDER IF THE CREATURE COULD BE CALLING OTHERS OF ITS KIND··· CALLING FOR HELP! BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS. THE CREATURE THAT LAID THAT EGG MUST BE EXTINCT FOR COUNTLESS CENTURIES!

IT WAS A DISTANT OBSERVATORY IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT FIRST SAW IT···
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME NEW SATELLITE··· BUT WITH WINGS!
I TELL YOU, KLEEVER, IT'S NOT A SATELLITE! IT LOOKS LIKE SOME GIGANTIC KIND OF BIRD!

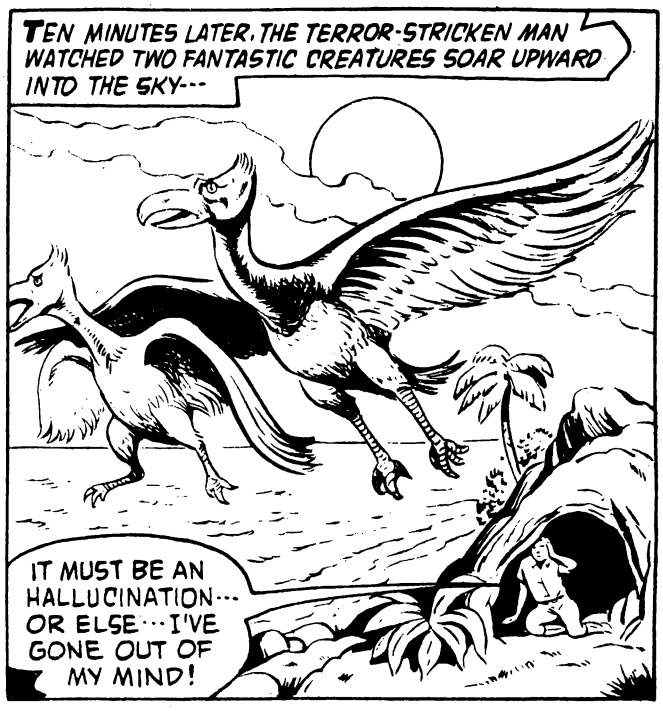

WITHIN AN HOUR, A DOZEN OTHER ASTRONOMERS WERE WATCHING THE SKIES IN DISBELIEF···
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY IT WAS A COLOSSAL BIRD···FLYING TOWARD EARTH AT A FANTASTIC SPEED!
A BIRD FLYING IN OUTER SPACE? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

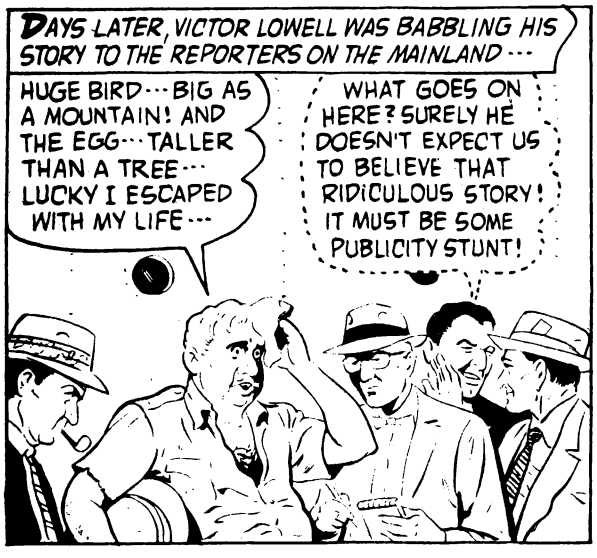

FOR SCIENTISTS THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE ANSWER···
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF INSECT THAT GOT INTO THE TELESCOPE! WE'VE GOT TO DISMANTLE IT AND GET THE BLASTED BUG OUT!


BUT IT WAS NO BUG, NO FIGMENT OF THE IMAGINATION. IN THE HOURS BEFORE THE DAWN, MONSTROUS WINGS FLAPPED OVER AN ISLAND IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AS THE GIANT CREATURE LISTENED TO CRIES OF DISTRESS···
EEEEEEKKK!
RAWWKKK!

LOWELL AWOKE TO THE THUNDEROUS BEAT OF GIANT WINGS···
NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! IT'S THE CREATURE THAT LAID THE EGG··· COME TO FREE ITS YOUNG!

TREMBLING IN FEAR, LOWELL RAN FOR COVER···
EEEYOW! HELP! HELP!

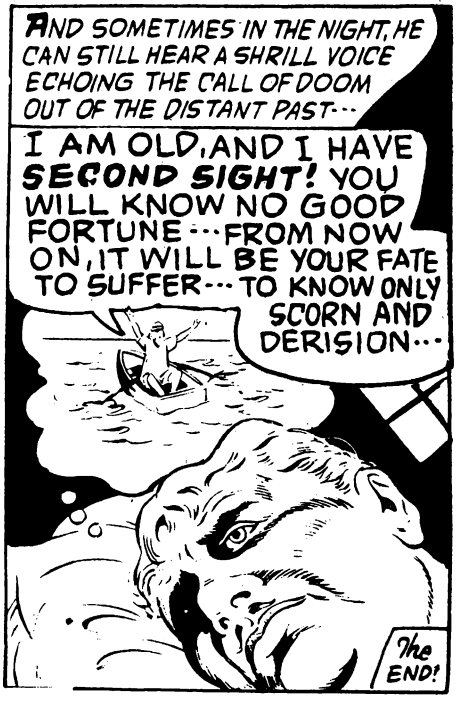

TEN MINUTES LATER, THE TERROR-STRICKEN MAN WATCHED TWO FANTASTIC CREATURES SOAR UPWARD INTO THE SKY···
IT MUST BE AN HALLUCINATION··· OR ELSE···I'VE GONE OUT OF MY MIND!


DAYS LATER, VICTOR LOWELL WAS BABBLING HIS STORY TO THE REPORTERS ON THE MAINLAND···
HUGE BIRD···BIG AS A MOUNTAIN! AND THE EGG···TALLER THAN A TREE··· LUCKY I ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE···
WHAT GOES ON HERE? SURELY HE DOESN'T EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT RIDICULOUS STORY! IT MUST BE SOME PUBLICITY STUNT!

NO, I DON'T THINK IT WAS A STUNT! LOOK AT HIS HAIR···HE'S TURNED COMPLETELY GREY! POOR FELLOW MUST HAVE HAD SOME HORRIBLE FRIGHT!
I THINK HE'S COMPLETELY OFF HIS ROCKER!

YEARS HAVE PASSED. VICTOR LOWELL IS SELDOM SEEN IN PUBLIC NOW···
CAN'T YOU BOOK ME FOR A LECTURE? I PROMISE NOT TO TALK ABOUT THAT HUGE MYSTERIOUS BIRD THIS TIME!
SORRY, LOWELL! THOSE WACKY STORIES OF YOURS HAVE FRIGHTENED THE CUSTOMERS AWAY FOR GOOD!
THEATRICAL AGENCY

BUT SOMETIMES, TO PROVE HIS OWN SANITY, HE UNWRAPS A STRANGE MEMENTO···
A FEATHER FROM THAT CREATURE THAT HATCHED OUT OF THE EGG! NO USE SHOWING IT TO ANYONE··· THEY'D JUST SAY IT WAS A HOAX!


AND SOMETIMES IN THE NIGHT, HE CAN STILL HEAR A SHRILL VOICE ECHOING THE CALL OF DOOM OUT OF THE DISTANT PAST···
I AM OLD, AND I HAVE SECOND SIGHT! YOU WILL KNOW NO GOOD FORTUNE···FROM NOW ON, IT WILL BE YOUR FATE TO SUFFER···TO KNOW ONLY SCORN AND DERISION···
The END!

The IMPOSTOR!

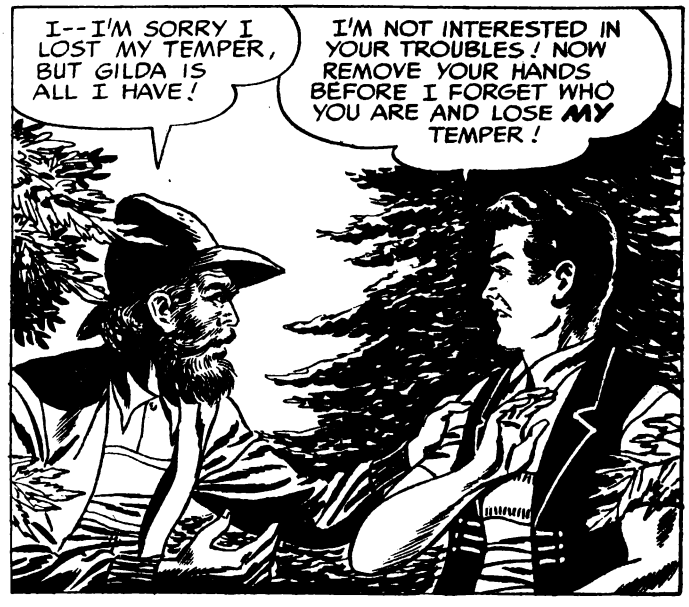
OUT OF THE DARKNESS IT CAME... HIDEOUS AND REPULSIVE IN ITS SHOCKING EVIL! AGAIN AND AGAIN IT STRUCK, AND FEAR LIVED IN ALL HEARTS BUT THAT OF... THE IMPOSTER!

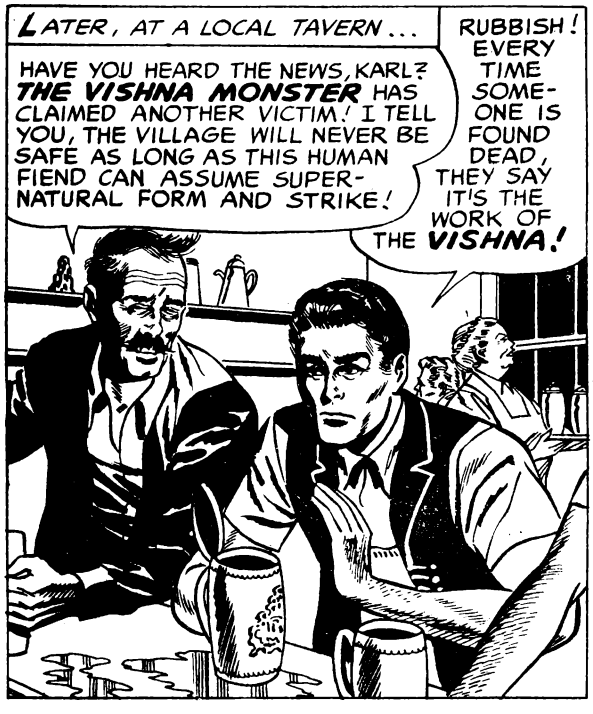
FATHER! I--I--
NOT ANOTHER WORD! BACK TO THE HOUSE!

DO AS HE SAYS, GILDA! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOUR FATHER AND I HAD A LITTLE TALK!

GET THIS--AND GET IT STRAIGHT! GILDA IS MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME--NO OTHER MAN COULD EVER MEAN ANYTHING TO HER! IF YOU WERE WISE, YOU WOULD GIVE US YOUR CONSENT TO BE MARRIED!
THAT I SHALL NEVER DO! I HAVE MY REASONS--

--AND GILDA WILL NEVER MARRY WITHOUT MY CONSENT! SHE HAS GIVEN ME HER SOLEMN WORD!
DON'T BE SO SURE, OLD MAN! NOTHING IS CERTAIN IN THIS WORLD! NOTHING AT ALL!


I--I'M SORRY I LOST MY TEMPER, BUT GILDA IS ALL I HAVE!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR TROUBLES! NOW REMOVE YOUR HANDS BEFORE I FORGET WHO YOU ARE AND LOSE MY TEMPER!


LATER, AT A LOCAL TAVERN...
HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS, KARL? THE VISHNA MONSTER HAS CLAIMED ANOTHER VICTIM! I TELL YOU, THE VILLAGE WILL NEVER BE SAFE AS LONG AS THIS HUMAN FIEND CAN ASSUME SUPER-NATURAL FORM AND STRIKE!
RUBBISH! EVERY TIME SOME-ONE IS FOUND DEAD, THEY SAY IT'S THE WORK OF THE VISHNA!

BUT IT IS TRUE! EVERYONE KNOWS IT! EVERYONE BELIEVES IT!
YES...EVERYONE DOES BELIEVE IT! HMM...I WONDER --

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...IN A LONELY AREA...
LISTEN, PETER! THAT SOUND!
GROWRR!

THE VISHNA! RUN, PETER... RUN!

QUICKLY, THE MONSTER STRIKES...
ARRGHHHHH!

HE'S DEAD--AND SOON THE WHOLE VILLAGE WILL KNOW IT!

THIS RUBBER MASK AND SUIT WERE A PERFECT DISGUISE! THEY'LL SAY HE WAS KILLED BY THE VISHNA! THEY'LL BELIEVE IT, AND I'LL NEVER BE SUSPECTED! NOW GILDA HAS NO NEED FOR HER FATHER'S CONSENT! NO LONGER CAN HE STAND BE-TWEEN US!

ONE EVENING, SHORTLY AFTER THE SLAYING...
IT IS I, GILDA... KARL! YOU CAN'T SHUT YOURSELF IN THIS WAY! OPEN THE DOOR... PLEASE!
RAP! RAP!

IT IS YOU, KARL...BUT I CAN'T SEE YOU! I CAN'T SEE ANYONE!
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, GILDA! YOU'VE SUFFERED A TERRIBLE BLOW, BUT LIFE MUST GO ON! OUR LIFE, GILDA! YOURS AND MINE!

THAT'S WHY I HAD TO SEE YOU--TO TALK ABOUT OUR FUTURE PLANS! YOU WON'T BE ALONE, GILDA! I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU! WE'LL GET MARRIED--SOON!
BUT HE'S DEAD, KARL! THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY UNDERSTOOD ME!
BUT I UNDERSTAND YOU, TOO! YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET THE PAST! HE'S DEAD, LIKE THE OTHERS! KILLED BY THAT CURSED MONSTER!
NO, KARL! IT WASN'T LIKE THE OTHERS!
NOT LIKE THE OTHERS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GILDA? EVERYONE KNOWS IT WAS THE VISHNA! THE WHOLE VILLAGE SAYS SO!
WHAT THE VILLAGERS SAY DOESN'T INTEREST ME!
YOU HATED HIM, KARL! YOU THOUGHT HE STOOD BETWEEN US! YOU ARGUED WITH HIM THAT NIGHT! I KNOW ALL THAT PASSED!
YOU KNOW NOTHING! YOU'RE UPSET AND DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
HE WAS KILLED BY THE VISHNA MONSTER--THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! IT WAS THE MONSTER, DO YOU HEAR? THE MONSTER!
NO, KARL! IT WASN'T!
HOW COULD YOU BE SURE? HOW CAN--N-NO! NO!
BECAUSE I AM VISHNA!
THE END
4

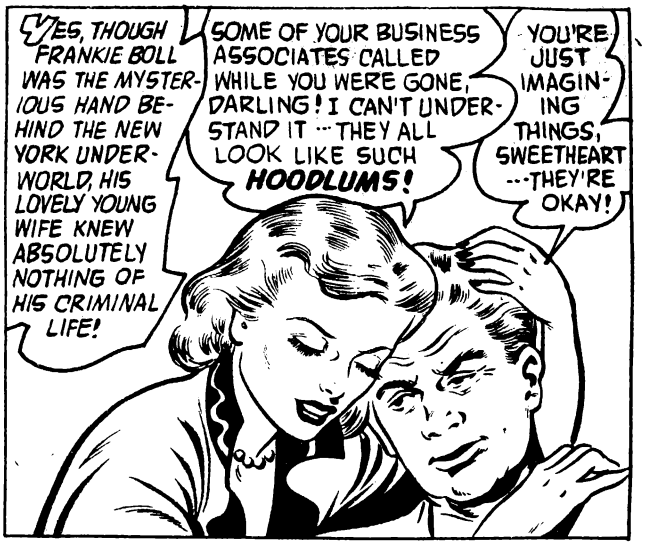
CONGRATULATIONS, FRANKIE --- YOU'RE THE ONLY DOOMED SOUL IN HISTORY TO CHEAT THE TORMENTS OF ***HADES!***

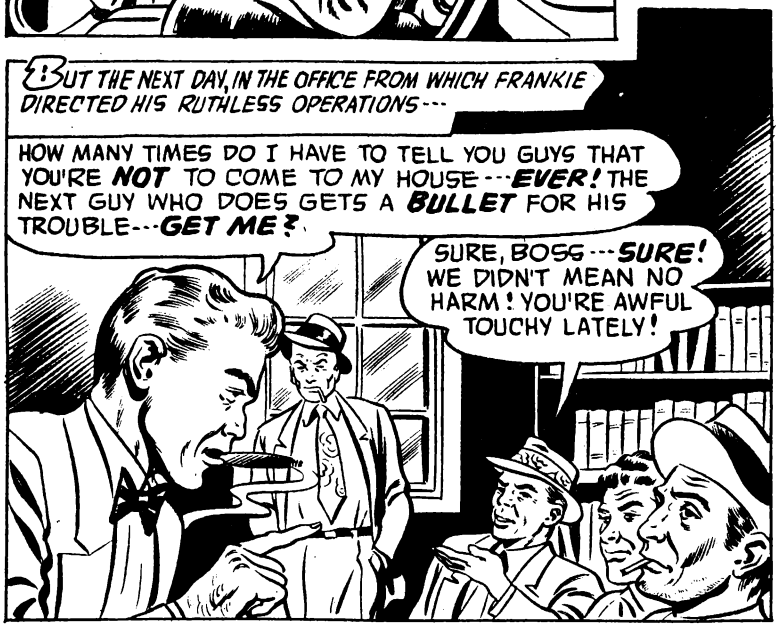
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M ***SMART***, SATAN --- ***VERY*** SMART! WE MADE A ***DEAL!***

*KILLER **FRANKIE BOLL'S** FATE WAS A STRANGE ONE! THOUGH DEATH AND EVERLASTING TORMENT FACED HIM --- AFTER A LIFETIME OF CRIME AND BLOODSHED --- HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE! NO, HIS WAS A BRILLIANT AND EVIL MIND --- CLEVER ENOUGH, HE THOUGHT, TO CHEAT ---*

THE ETERNAL FIRES!

LATER, IN THE GANG CHIEF'S PALATIAL HOME---
WHY SO GLUM, DEAR? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN YOURSELF SINCE YOU GOT BACK FROM CHICAGO!
HOW CAN I TELL---HER? SHE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHO LOVES ME---AND I DON'T WANT HER TO SUFFER ON MY ACCOUNT!


YES, THOUGH FRANKIE BOLL WAS THE MYSTERIOUS HAND BEHIND THE NEW YORK UNDERWORLD, HIS LOVELY YOUNG WIFE KNEW ABSOLUTELY NOTHING OF HIS CRIMINAL LIFE!
SOME OF YOUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES CALLED WHILE YOU WERE GONE, DARLING! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT---THEY ALL LOOK LIKE SUCH HOODLUMS!
YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS, SWEETHEART---THEY'RE OKAY!

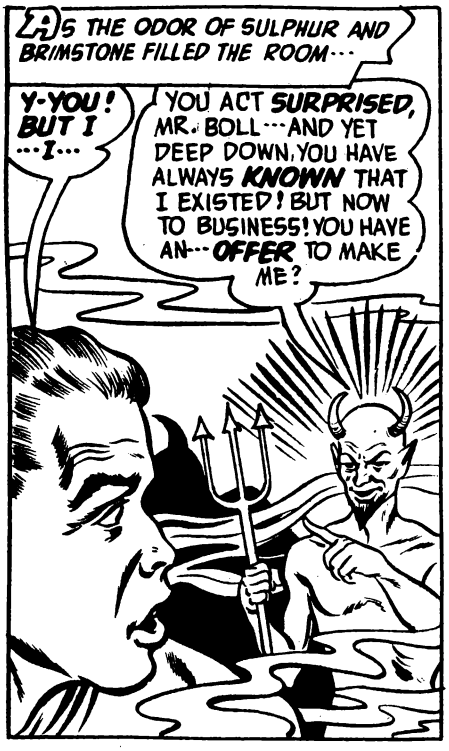

BUT THE NEXT DAY, IN THE OFFICE FROM WHICH FRANKIE DIRECTED HIS RUTHLESS OPERATIONS---
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU GUYS THAT YOU'RE NOT TO COME TO MY HOUSE---EVER! THE NEXT GUY WHO DOES GETS A BULLET FOR HIS TROUBLE---GET ME?
SURE, BOSS---SURE! WE DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM! YOU'RE AWFUL TOUCHY LATELY!

That night---
I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR, DEAR---YOU'RE NOT LOOKING WELL, AND YOU'VE BEEN SO TERRIBLY GLOOMY!
WHO WOULDN'T BE---WHEN EVERY MINUTE BRINGS ME CLOSER TO---THE END!

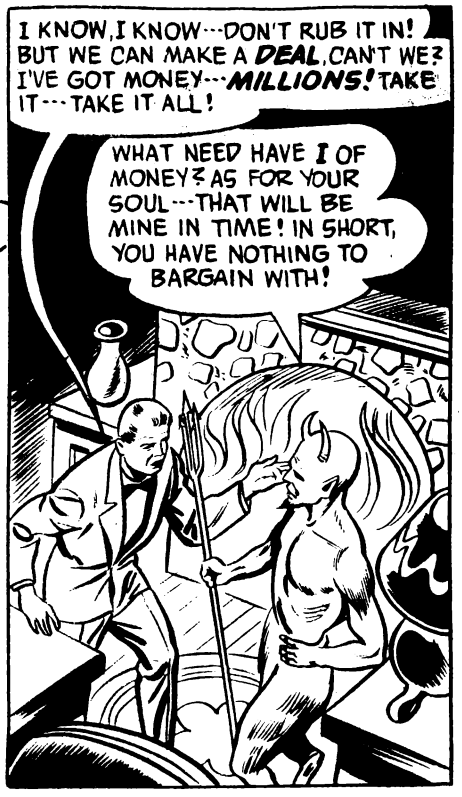
PLEASE CHEER UP, DARLING---YOU'RE SO BLUE ANYBODY WOULD THINK YOU WERE FACING THE---OH, SOMETHING LIKE THE FIRES OF HADES!
DON'T TALK THAT WAY! I CAN'T STAND IT! GET OUT! LEAVE ME ALONE! I'VE GOT TO THINK!

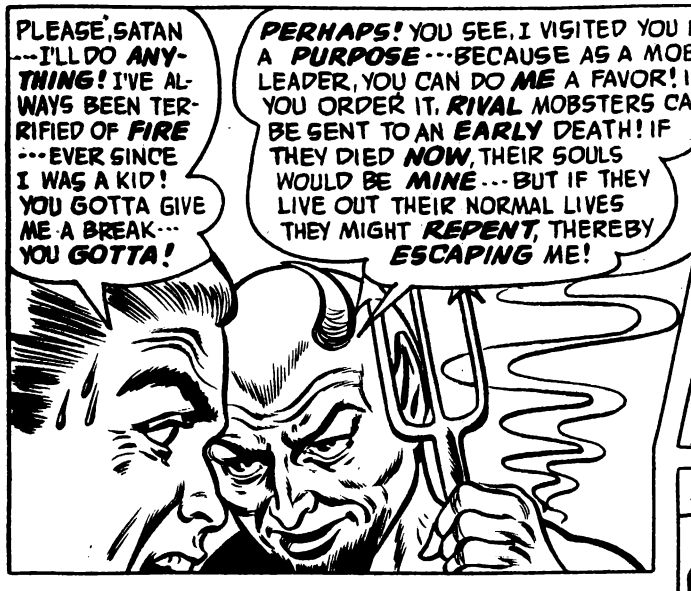
SHE'S---RIGHT! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! I'M GOING TO DIE---AND I HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AFTERWARD! THAT'S NOT LIKE ME---I ALWAYS PLAN IN ADVANCE! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT---I'VE GOT TO!

IF THERE IS A DEVIL, THEN I DON'T STAND A CHANCE! BUT MAYBE IF I CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM SOMEHOW---MAYBE WE CAN MAKE A DEAL!
AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. BOLL!


AS THE ODOR OF SULPHUR AND BRIMSTONE FILLED THE ROOM---
Y-YOU! BUT I ---I---
YOU ACT SURPRISED, MR. BOLL---AND YET DEEP DOWN, YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I EXISTED! BUT NOW TO BUSINESS! YOU HAVE AN---OFFER TO MAKE ME?

WELL, THAT IS---LOOK, I'M GOING TO DIE, SOON! I DON'T THINK I GOT MUCH OF A CHANCE WHEN I COME UP FOR JUDGMENT, AND---
THAT'S RIGHT---YOU HAVE NO CHANCE! YOUR SOUL IS BLACK WITH SIN!


I KNOW, I KNOW---DON'T RUB IT IN! BUT WE CAN MAKE A DEAL, CAN'T WE? I'VE GOT MONEY---MILLIONS! TAKE IT---TAKE IT ALL!
WHAT NEED HAVE I OF MONEY? AS FOR YOUR SOUL---THAT WILL BE MINE IN TIME! IN SHORT, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BARGAIN WITH!


PLEASE, SATAN---I'LL DO ANYTHING! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TERRIFIED OF FIRE---EVER SINCE I WAS A KID! YOU GOTTA GIVE ME A BREAK---YOU GOTTA!
PERHAPS! YOU SEE, I VISITED YOU FOR A PURPOSE---BECAUSE AS A MOB LEADER, YOU CAN DO ME A FAVOR! IF YOU ORDER IT, RIVAL MOBSTERS CAN BE SENT TO AN EARLY DEATH! IF THEY DIED NOW, THEIR SOULS WOULD BE MINE---BUT IF THEY LIVE OUT THEIR NORMAL LIVES THEY MIGHT REPENT, THEREBY ESCAPING ME!

YOU MEAN---IF I START A GANG WAR---YOU'LL GIVE ME A BREAK? SURE, I GET IT---AND I'LL DO IT!
FINE! WE HAVE STRUCK A BARGAIN!

THE NEXT DAY, AS FRANKIE OUTLINED HIS PLAN TO HIS UNDERLINGS---
BUT BOSS, HOW COME YOU'RE ASKIN' US TO MOVE IN AGAINST THE FRANCETTI MOB NOW? I THOUGHT WE WUZ GONNA WAIT!
BECAUSE THE TIME'S RIGHT! WHAT'SA MATTER, ROCCO---LOSING YOUR NERVE?

AS A NIGHT-LONG MASSACRE COMMENCED---
GET 'EM ALL, BOYS---ALL!
OH-HH!

ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY---ANOTHER GANG HEAD-QUARTERS---
THAT PINEAPPLE BLEW 'EM TO SMITHEREENS!
OKAY, STEP ON IT!
BOOM!

AT SATAN'S NEXT VISIT---
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, FRANKIE! NOW I HAVE BUT ONE MORE REQUEST---THE LAST! YOU MUST SEE TO IT THAT I DON'T LOSE THE SOULS OF YOUR MEN!
YOU MEAN---YOU WANT ME TO DOUBLE-CROSS MY OWN BOYS? NIX---I CAN'T DO THAT!

SUIT YOURSELF! BUT REMEMBER, THE FLAMING LAVA PITS ARE WAITING!
I-I GOT NO CHOICE! OKAY, YOU WIN---I'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING!

YOU HEARD ME, LOUIS---I SAID GET ALL THE BOYS TOGETHER AND MEET ME AT 11 TONIGHT IN THE ABANDONED WARE-HOUSE ON MYRTLE STREET!

THEN, WORKING SWIFTLY---
THIS'LL DO IT! BY THE TIME THE BOYS GET HERE, I'LL HAVE THE JOINT BRISTLING WITH T.N.T.! AND ONCE THEY'RE INSIDE---CURTAINS!

WHEN THE LAST OF THE MOBSTERS HAD GONE INTO THE WAREHOUSE---
THAT---DOES IT!
BOOM!

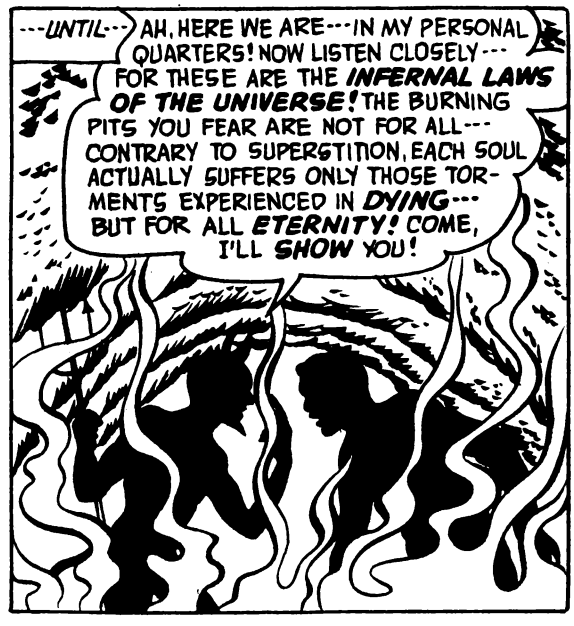
WHEN FRANKIE ARRIVED HOME---
I'VE BEEN WAITING UP FOR YOU! WHY, YOU'RE SMILING!
YES, SWEETHEART! YOU SEE, I'VE BEEN HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE LATELY, BUT EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT---NOW!

ONE WEEK LATER---
BETTER NOT PUT OFF FINISHING THIS WILL! I'M LEAVING EVERYTHING TO HER ---THE BEST WIFE ANY GUY EVER HAD!
AH, I SEE YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER!
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

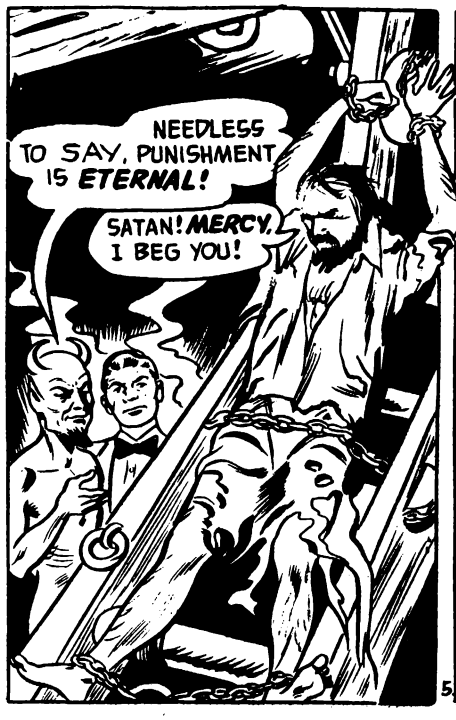
SATAN---JUST THE GUY I WANNA SEE! I'VE BEEN THINKING--- I'M NOT SURE I TRUST YOU! YOU SAY YOU'RE GONNA GIVE ME A BREAK---I WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND!
A SUSPICIOUS NATURE, EH? GOOD, I ADMIRE THAT! COME, IT'LL BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IF I TAKE YOU ON A TOUR OF HADES!

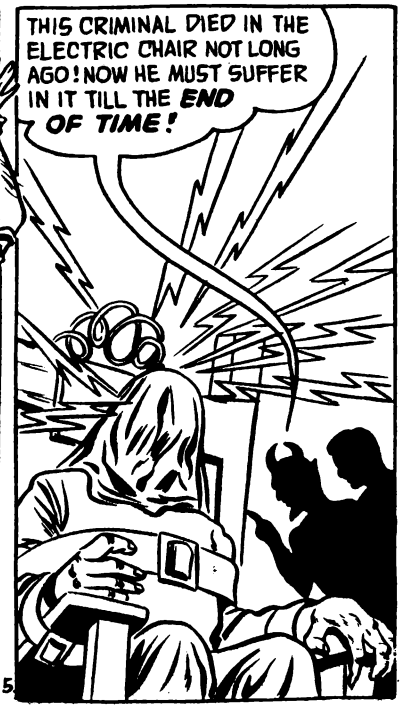
NO! NOT THE FIRES! I COULDN'T STAND THAT!
HAVE NO FEAR! ONLY THE DEAD KNOW THE TORMENTS! COME!

SUDDENLY, THE GROUND SLIPPED FROM UNDER FRANKIE BOLL'S FEET! INSTANTLY, HE WAS FLUNG INTO A BLACK, SPINNING VORTEX---DOWN--- DOWN---

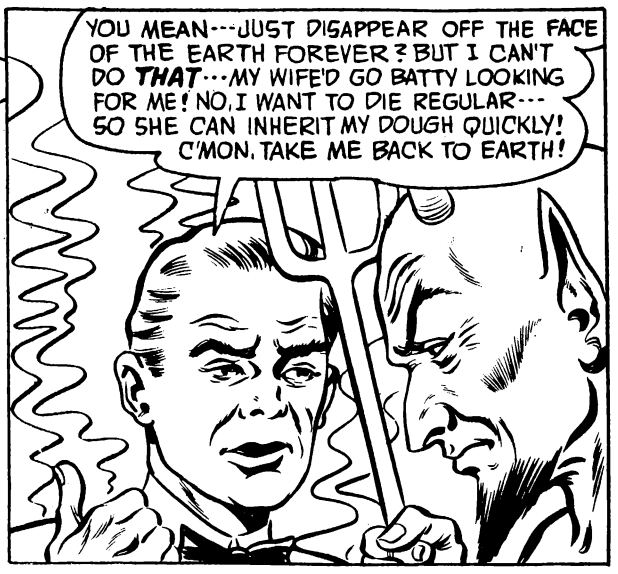

---UNTIL---
AH, HERE WE ARE---IN MY PERSONAL QUARTERS! NOW LISTEN CLOSELY--- FOR THESE ARE THE INFERNAL LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE! THE BURNING PITS YOU FEAR ARE NOT FOR ALL--- CONTRARY TO SUPERSTITION, EACH SOUL ACTUALLY SUFFERS ONLY THOSE TORMENTS EXPERIENCED IN DYING--- BUT FOR ALL ETERNITY! COME, I'LL SHOW YOU!

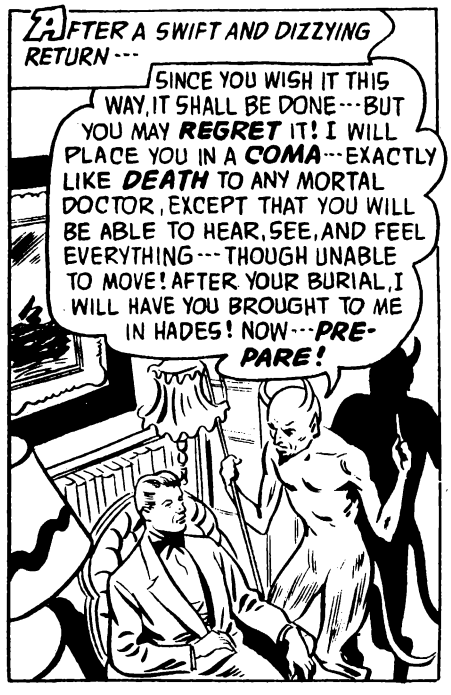
AS THE GRIM TOUR BEGAN---
THERE IS A MAN WHO WAS FLOGGED TO DEATH FOR KILLING A SHIPMATE ABOARD A SAILING SHIP---200 YEARS AGO! HERE HE WILL BE FLOGGED FOR-EVER!
AAGH!
GRAK!


NEEDLESS TO SAY, PUNISHMENT IS ETERNAL!
SATAN! MERCY, I BEG YOU!


THIS CRIMINAL DIED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR NOT LONG AGO! NOW HE MUST SUFFER IN IT TILL THE END OF TIME!

I-I GET IT! BUT LOOK---I'M GONNA DIE PAINFULLY! I GOT AN INCURABLE DISEASE---SOMETIMES THE PAIN GETS SO BAD I CAN'T STAND IT! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO FOR ME?
FEAR NOT! ONLY THOSE WHO ARE DEAD UPON ARRIVING HERE ARE BEYOND MY HELP---BUT YOU WILL ARRIVE HERE ALIVE! STAY WITH ME NOW IF YOU WISH IT---AND LIVE COMFORTABLY AS AN EMISSARY! AGREED?


YOU MEAN---JUST DISAPPEAR OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH FOREVER? BUT I CAN'T DO THAT---MY WIFE'D GO BATTY LOOKING FOR ME! NO, I WANT TO DIE REGULAR--- SO SHE CAN INHERIT MY DOUGH QUICKLY! C'MON, TAKE ME BACK TO EARTH!


AFTER A SWIFT AND DIZZYING RETURN---
SINCE YOU WISH IT THIS WAY, IT SHALL BE DONE---BUT YOU MAY REGRET IT! I WILL PLACE YOU IN A COMA---EXACTLY LIKE DEATH TO ANY MORTAL DOCTOR, EXCEPT THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR, SEE, AND FEEL EVERYTHING---THOUGH UNABLE TO MOVE! AFTER YOUR BURIAL, I WILL HAVE YOU BROUGHT TO ME IN HADES! NOW---PREPARE!

MOMENTS LATER---
FRANKIE! WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? OH, NO! HE LOOKS---

AFTER THE DOCTOR'S ARRIVAL---
HE'S DEAD, MRS. BOLL ---THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE!
OH, FRANKIE, FRANKIE! WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN TO YOU---THE MOST WONDERFUL GUY IN THE WORLD!

NEXT DAY---IN A FINE FUNERAL CHAPEL---
HAVE YOU DECIDED YET, MRS. BOLL---AS TO WHAT KIND OF FUNERAL YOU WISH?
NOT A REGULAR BURIAL ---I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF MY DARLING LYING IN A COLD, WET GRAVE! I'VE DECIDED TO HAVE HIM CREMATED--- AND KEEP HIS ASHES IN AN URN NEAR ME ALWAYS!

FRANKIE HEARD, AND SAW, AND FELT---EACH AGONIZING MOMENT WHICH BROUGHT HIM CLOSER TO THE CREMATION OVEN! BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO!
I-I CAN'T SPEAK! I CAN'T--- STOP THEM?

OKAY, ED---TURN UP THE HEAT! HE'LL BE ASHES IN A FEW MOMENTS!
CLANG!

AND WHEN THE FLAMES HAD DONE THEIR WORK--- THE SPIRIT OF FRANKIE BOLL SPUN DOWNWARDS---

---UNTIL IT REACHED---HADES!
SATAN! SHE--- SHE---
I KNOW! UNFORTUNATE, BUT SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE DEAD---THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE MADE A DEAL!
YOU SHOULD HAVE REMAINED HERE WHEN I ASKED YOU! BUT NOW, SINCE YOU HAVE TRULY DIED ON EARTH--- I MUST OBEY THE INFERNAL LAWS!

AWAY WITH HIM! TO THE LAVA PITS---FOR ETERNITY!
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS! STOP! PLEASE! PLEASE!
THE MASTER--- HAS SPOKEN!

AND AS THE ETERNAL FLAMES LAPPED HUNGRILY---
YAAAGH!
THIS WAS HIS FATE---THE MAN WHO TRIED TO OUTWIT DESTINY!
THE END!

I AM FIFTY... I AM AN OLD MAN... I'M SENILE, TOTTERING, PALSIED! YOU ASK HOW THAT IS LIKELY AT MY AGE? THEN LISTEN TO THE STORY OF...

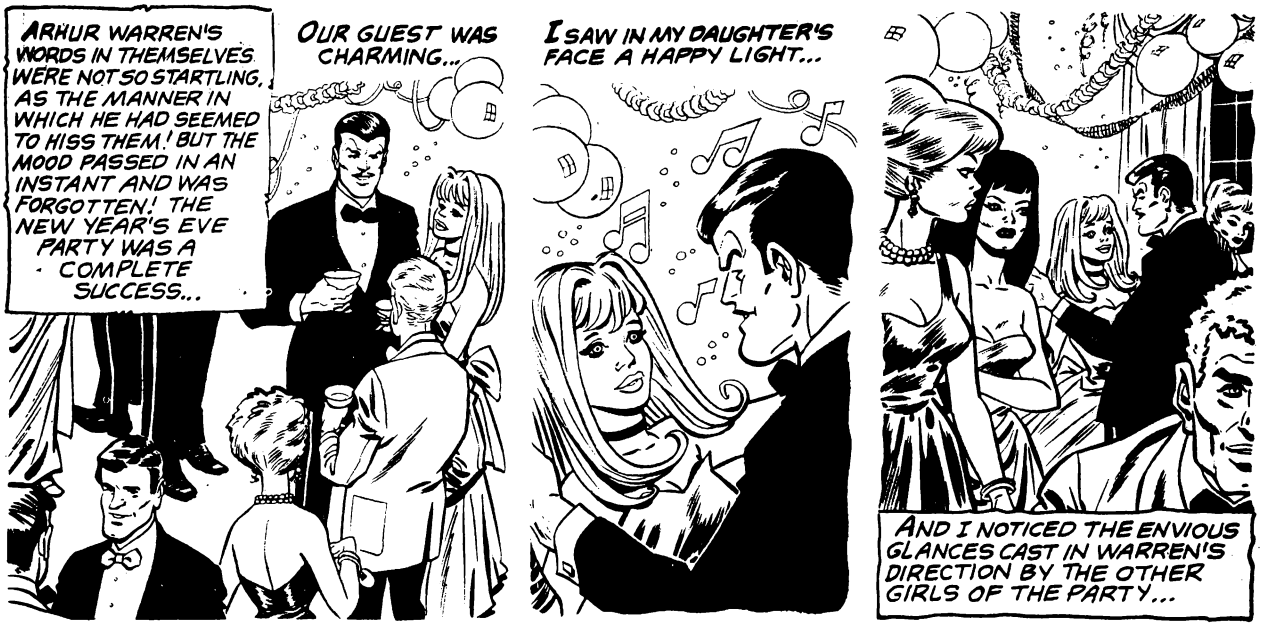
Satan's DEMON

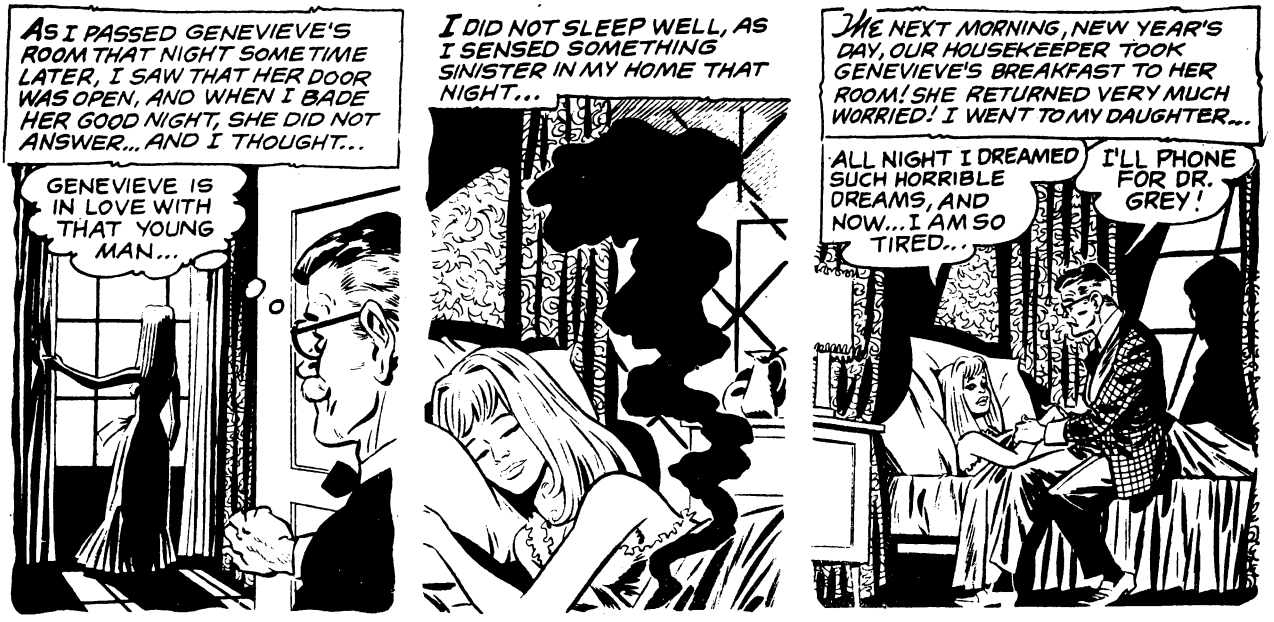
IT HAD BEEN A MILD, PLEASANT WINTER UNTIL THE NIGHT OF THE 30TH OF DECEMBER! THEN, ALL THE HOARDED FURY OF NATURE WAS UNLEASHED AT ONCE... SHAKING THE QUIET, PEACEFUL VILLAGE OF INTERVALE TO ITS ROOTS! AND THE WILDEST TORMENT SEEMED TO BE LEVELLED UPON THE ANCIENT CEMETERY THAT HAD RESTED FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS ON THE HILL SLOPE NOT FAR FROM OUR FAMILY HOUSE...

THERE WERE BLACK SOUNDS IN THE NIGHT, AND STRANGE SHAPES SEEMED TO FORM THAT WERE BLACKER THAN THE DARKNESS...

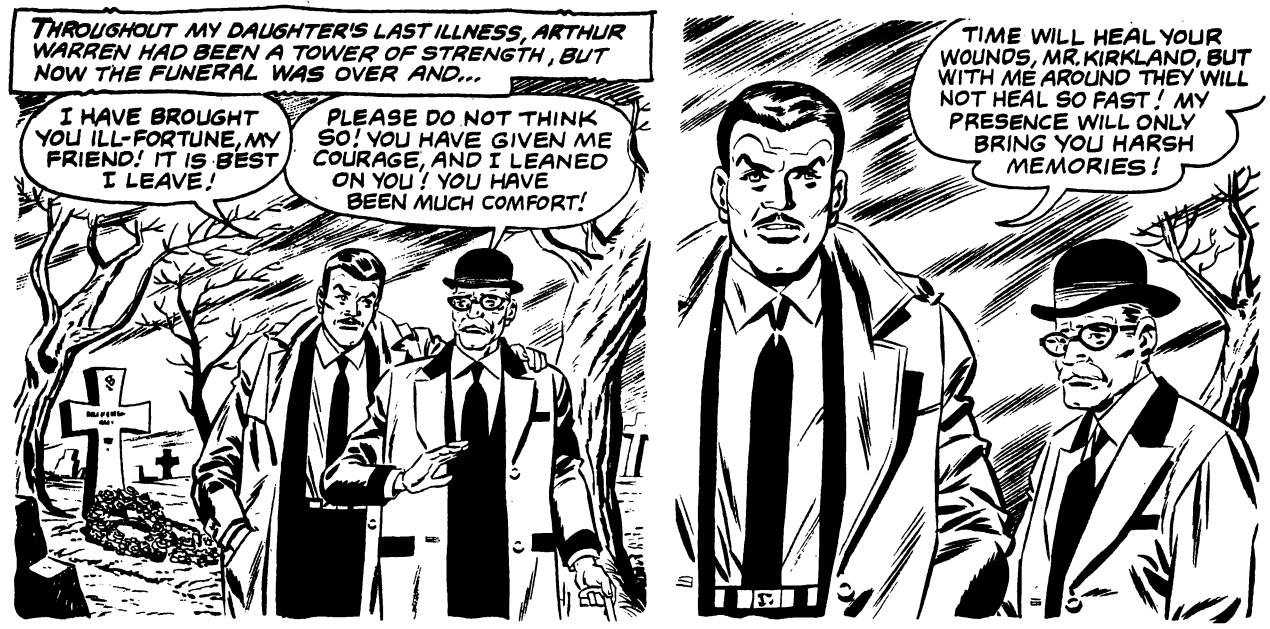
IT IS AN OLD NEW ENGLAND SUPERSTITION THAT ON SUCH A NIGHT, THE DEVIL'S WORK IS BEST PERFORMED...

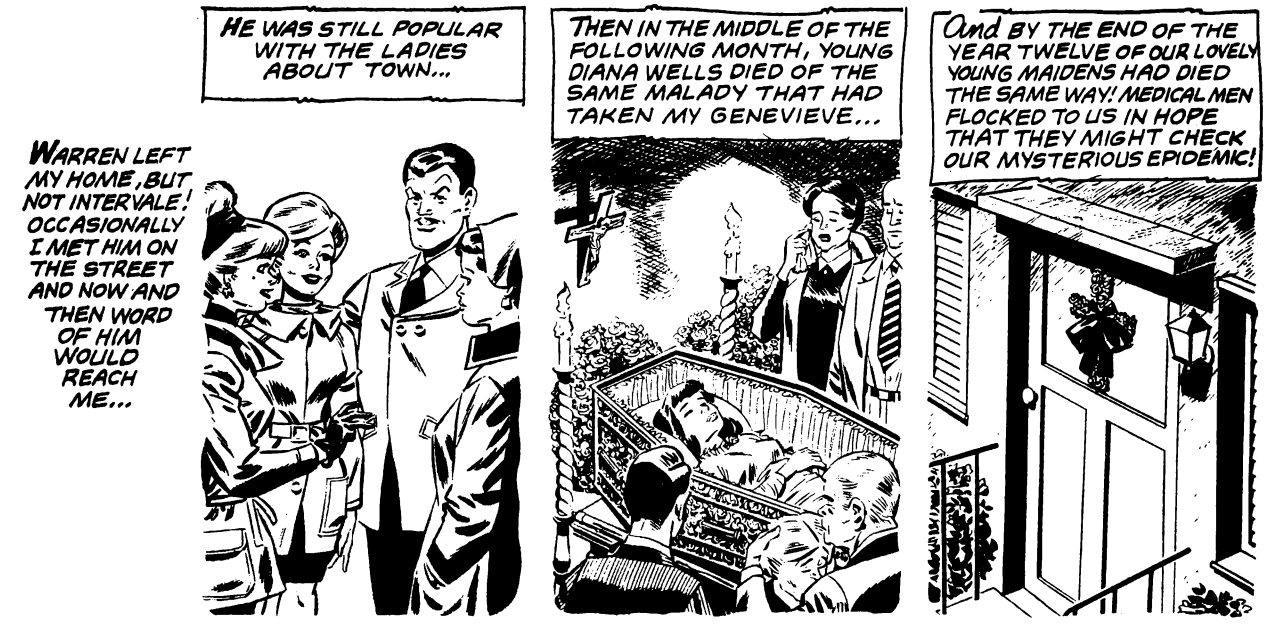
BUT THIS IS THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND SUPERSTITION AND BELIEF IN SPECTURAL MAGIC HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN EXPLAINED AWAY BY GREAT MEN IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY!
THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR WAS JUST ABOUT AUDIBLE ABOVE THE STORM! GENEVIEVE WHO WAS JUST ABOUT TWENTY WITH SHARPER HEARING THAN MINE, INSISTED SOMEONE WAS AT THE DOOR...
MY DEAR MAN! COME IN!
BUT...BUT WHAT! I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT THOSE CLOTHES!
RIDICULOUS, AREN'T THEY? YOU SEE, A TREE WAS DOWN NEAR THE CEMETARY! AS I STOPPED, FOUR MEN SPRANG AT ME, TOOK MY MONEY, MY CAR...MY CLOTHES!
IT WAS UNUSUAL, BUT I BELIEVED THE MAN, AND SINCE HE WAS ABOUT MY SIZE, I PLACED MY WARDROBE AT HIS DISPOSAL!
I TRUST... A BIT MORE PRESENTABLE, MY FRIENDS!
OH... H-HOW DO YOU DO!
THE STRANGER SAID THAT HIS NAME WAS ARTHUR WARREN! HE HAD BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, SO THAT TIME PASSED WITHOUT OUR REALIZING...
I'M AFRAID I HAVE BORED YOU!
ON THE CONTRARY! YOU MUST BE OUR GUEST...IF YOUR TIME PERMITS!
OH, NO!
YOU SEE, SOME FRIENDS OF MY DAUGHTER'S WILL BE IN FOR A QUIET NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! BUT THEN YOU'LL PROBABLY WANT TO SEE THE POLICE ABOUT THE ROBBERY!
THAT CAN WAIT! I AM HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION!
WE ROSE AND GENEVIEVE DREW THE DRAPES ASIDE! "I LOVE THE SUN HERE EARLY IN THE MORNING," SHE SAID, THEN, "OH, IT HAS CLEARED! THE MOON IS UP!"...
YES... A WANING MOON... A DYING MOON!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

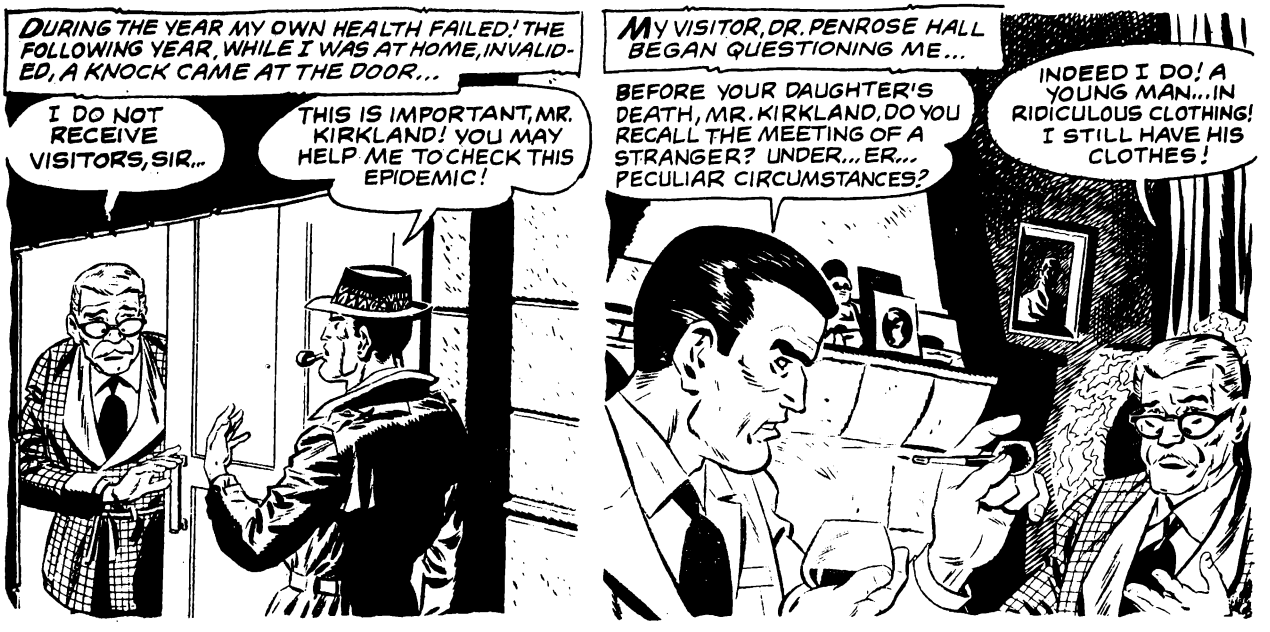

ARTHUR WARREN'S WORDS IN THEMSELVES WERE NOT SO STARTLING, AS THE MANNER IN WHICH HE HAD SEEMED TO HISS THEM! BUT THE MOOD PASSED IN AN INSTANT AND WAS FORGOTTEN! THE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS...
OUR GUEST WAS CHARMING...
I SAW IN MY DAUGHTER'S FACE A HAPPY LIGHT...
AND I NOTICED THE ENVIOUS GLANCES CAST IN WARREN'S DIRECTION BY THE OTHER GIRLS OF THE PARTY...


AS I PASSED GENEVIEVE'S ROOM THAT NIGHT SOMETIME LATER, I SAW THAT HER DOOR WAS OPEN, AND WHEN I BADE HER GOOD NIGHT, SHE DID NOT ANSWER... AND I THOUGHT...
GENEVIEVE IS IN LOVE WITH THAT YOUNG MAN...
I DID NOT SLEEP WELL, AS I SENSED SOMETHING SINISTER IN MY HOME THAT NIGHT...
THE NEXT MORNING, NEW YEAR'S DAY, OUR HOUSEKEEPER TOOK GENEVIEVE'S BREAKFAST TO HER ROOM! SHE RETURNED VERY MUCH WORRIED! I WENT TO MY DAUGHTER...
ALL NIGHT I DREAMED SUCH HORRIBLE DREAMS, AND NOW... I AM SO TIRED...
I'LL PHONE FOR DR. GREY!

LATER THAT DAY...
WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR? WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY DAUGHTER?
I WISH I COULD TELL YOU! NOTHING THAT FITS COMPLETELY INTO ANY DIAGNOSIS! ONE THING I DO KNOW... SHE MUST HAVE A BLOOD TRANSFUSION AT ONCE!
FOR A FORTNIGHT, GENEVIEVE HOVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, AND ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 14TH, SHE PASSED AWAY...
MY BABY! DEAD! HER MOTHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD! I HAVE LIVED FOR HER ALONE ALL THESE YEARS! NOW... I HAVE NOTHING TO LIVE FOR! NOTHING...
COURAGE, MY FRIEND... HAVE COURAGE!


THROUGHOUT MY DAUGHTER'S LAST ILLNESS, ARTHUR WARREN HAD BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH, BUT NOW THE FUNERAL WAS OVER AND...
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU ILL-FORTUNE, MY FRIEND! IT IS BEST I LEAVE!
PLEASE DO NOT THINK SO! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME COURAGE, AND I LEANED ON YOU! YOU HAVE BEEN MUCH COMFORT!
TIME WILL HEAL YOUR WOUNDS, MR. KIRKLAND, BUT WITH ME AROUND THEY WILL NOT HEAL SO FAST! MY PRESENCE WILL ONLY BRING YOU HARSH MEMORIES!


HE WAS STILL POPULAR WITH THE LADIES ABOUT TOWN...
WARREN LEFT MY HOME, BUT NOT INTERVALE! OCCASIONALLY I MET HIM ON THE STREET AND NOW AND THEN WORD OF HIM WOULD REACH ME...
THEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH, YOUNG DIANA WELLS DIED OF THE SAME MALADY THAT HAD TAKEN MY GENEVIEVE...
And BY THE END OF THE YEAR TWELVE OF OUR LOVELY YOUNG MAIDENS HAD DIED THE SAME WAY! MEDICAL MEN FLOCKED TO US IN HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT CHECK OUR MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC!


DURING THE YEAR MY OWN HEALTH FAILED! THE FOLLOWING YEAR, WHILE I WAS AT HOME, INVALIDED, A KNOCK CAME AT THE DOOR...
I DO NOT RECEIVE VISITORS, SIR...
THIS IS IMPORTANT, MR. KIRKLAND! YOU MAY HELP ME TO CHECK THIS EPIDEMIC!
MY VISITOR, DR. PENROSE HALL BEGAN QUESTIONING ME...
BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH, MR. KIRKLAND, DO YOU RECALL THE MEETING OF A STRANGER? UNDER... ER... PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES?
INDEED I DO! A YOUNG MAN... IN RIDICULOUS CLOTHING! I STILL HAVE HIS CLOTHES!

I LED THE WAY UPSTAIRS TO WARREN'S ROOM! THERE I OPENED THE CLOTHES CLOSET...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! THE SUIT IS GONE! ONLY THIS PILE OF DUST... AND THESE ANTIQUE BONE BUTTONS!
EXACTLY, MR. KIRKLAND! WE MUST GO AT ONCE TO THE HOME OF THE LATEST VICTIM OF THIS.. THIS MALADY!

I WENT WITH DR. HALL DIRECTLY TO THE HOME OF DONALD CRANE, ABOUT FIVE MILES AWAY! HIS DAUGHTER, ALICE, HAD BEEN ILL FOR TWO DAYS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DR. HALL... YOU MEAN...
YOUR DAUGHTER IS IN GREAT DANGER, MR. CRANE! NOW, HERE IS WHAT WE MUST DO...

WE WERE LED AT ONCE TO ALICE'S BEDROOM! MY HEART WAS STABBED WITH PAIN SEEING THE POOR CHILD... THEN DR. HALL WAS SPEAKING...
IN THIS CLOSET, GENTLEMEN! REMEMBER... HOLD YOUR CRUCIFIXES... DO EXACTLY AS I HAVE INSTRUCTED WHEN I SIGNAL...

THE LIGHTS WERE EXTINGUISHED... JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT SOMETHING VILE AND UNHOLY SEEMED TO PERMEATE THE ATMOSPHERE...

THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR WE SAW SOMETHING TAKE SHAPE...
NOW! HURRY!!

WE ADVANCED, EACH ONE OF US HOLDING HIS CRUCIFIX HIGH! THE THING TURNED WITH THE MOST UNHOLY EXPRESSION I EVER SAW!

BUT SO EVIL WAS IT THAT THE SIGHT OF THE HOLY CRUCIFIXES MADE IT HELPLESS! DR. HALL DROVE THE STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART!
EVIL...EVIL...THING OF NIGHT AND DEVIL! DIE...DIE...CLEANSE THYSELF IN DEATH!
THE THING BEGAN TO MELT AND TURN INTO A SLIMY, ODORFUL MASS ON THE CARPET...
YOU WILL NOT FIND YOUR MR. WARREN AROUND ANYMORE!
MR. WARREN?
I AM A DOCTOR OF METAPHYSICS, AN OCCULTIST! WHEN I READ OF YOUR DISASTERS, I BEGAN TO QUIETLY INVESTIGATE CERTAIN ANCIENT TOMBS! I READ THERE THE CASE OF ARTHUR WARREN, EXECUTED AS A VAMPIRE IN THE YEAR 1651
FOR THE REST OF THE EXPLANATION, COME...
HALL LED US TO...
THE ONE PERFORMING THE EXECUTION, THE RECORDS STATE, WAS SEIZED WITH A STROKE AND DIED BEFORE THE INCANTATION COULD BE MADE! NO ONE ELSE KNEW IT!
CEMETARY
WITHOUT THE INCANTATION, WARREN REMAINED IN SUSPENDED DEATH, THE OAK SPROUTED AND GREW OVER HIS REMAINS! WHEN THE UPROOTED TREE REMOVED THE STAKE WARREN WAS A FREE VAMPIRE ONCE MORE, TAKING ANY SHAPE, LIVING ON THE BLOOD OF YOUNG MAIDENS...ONE BEFORE EACH NEW MOON...
And SO I LIVE, KNOWING I RECEIVED IT INTO MY HOME AND ON MY HANDS IS THE BLOOD OF THIRTEEN MAIDENS...FOR UNWITTINGLY I OPENED THE DOOR TO THE BLACK HEART!! MY LIFE IS SPENT! I WAIT IMPATIENTLY FOR THE GRAVE!